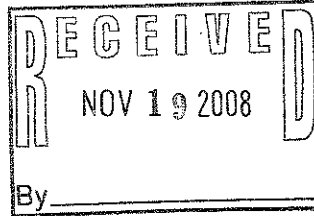


SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT NO. 63
AIRLINE COMMUNITY SCHOOL
202 KIDDER HILL ROAD
HOLDEN, ME 04429

LOUISE M. REGAN
SUPERINTENDENT

TELEPHONE 843-7851
FAX 843-7295

November 14, 2008



Susan Gendron
Commissioner of Education
Maine Department of Education
23 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0023

Dear Commissioner Gendron:

Enclosed please find the RSU 15 Reorganization Plan for the communities of Amherst, Aurora, Great Pond and Osborn (CSD #8), Brewer, Clifton, Eddington and Holden (MSAD #63), Dedham and Orrington.

If you should have any questions, please contact Kyle Casburn, 375 Johnson Mill Road, Orrington, ME 04474. His telephone number is (207) 825-3855.

Sincerely,



Yvonne Mitchell
Business Manager

:sm

Enclosure: RSU 15 Reorganization Plan

Cc: Kyle Casburn – RSU 15 Regional Planning Committee Chair
Daniel Lee – Superintendent of Schools, Brewer School Department
Allan G. Snell – Superintendent of Schools, Orrington School Department

RSU 15 REORGANIZATION PLAN

SAU Submitting: **RSU 15**

Contact Information: **Kyle Casburn**
375 Johnson Mill Road
Orrington, ME 04474
207-825-3855

Date Submitted by SAU: **November 14, 2008**

Proposed RSU Operational Date: **July 1, 2009**

The Reorganizational Planning Committee voted to support the following name:

Regional School Unit 15

(Voted: October 9, 2008)

DeWard
Signature/Title

11-6-2008
Date

ORRINGTON
SAU

Michelle E. Galt
Signature/Title

11-06-2008
Date

Aurora
SAU

William School Board
Signature/Title

11-06-08
Date

Great Pond
SAU

James H. Hargis Comm
Signature/Title

11/6/08
Date

Amherst
SAU

William H. Hargis
Signature/Title

11/06/08
Date

Aurora
SAU

Frances Leasley
Signature/Title

11/6/08
Date

Clifton
SAU

William H. Hargis
Signature/Title

11/6/08
Date

Holden
SAU

Robert Harvey
Signature/Title

11-6-08
Date

Holden
SAU

Therese Auden
Signature/Title

11/6/08
Date

Eddington
SAU

Donald Varnum
Signature/Title

11/6/08
Date

Holden
SAU

Chris B. B. J.
Signature/Title

11/6/08
Date

Eddington
SAU

Joseph H. Russell
Signature/Title

11/6/08
Date

Eddington
SAU

Karen Clark
Signature/Title

11/6/08
Date

Alternate for Clifton
SAU

Amelia M.
Signature/Title

11-6-08
Date

Brewer
SAU

Chris R. Silman
Signature/Title

11-6-08
Date

Brewer
SAU

Ed B. B.
Signature/Title

11-6/08
Date

Brewer
SAU

Yamfelkhu
Signature/Title

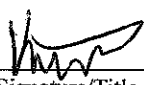
11/6/08
Date

Dedham
SAU

Brian R. Rosta
Signature/Title

Nov. 6, 2008
Date

Dedham
SAU


Signature/Title

11/6/08
Date

Dedham
SAU

John Mugrai
Signature/Title

11/6/08
Date

Orrington
SAU

Christina L. Luvy
Signature/Title

11/6/08
Date

Orrington
SAU

Rafael W. Jordan
Signature/Title


11/6/08
Date

Osborn
SAU

Brian Jordan
Signature/Title

11/6/08
Date

Osborn
SAU


Signature/Title

11/6/08
Date

Avon
SAU

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Date

SAU

1. The units of school administration to be included in the proposed reorganized regional school unit.

The proposed Regional School Unit 15 includes the following school administrative units:

- A. Airline Community School District No. 8
City of Brewer, a municipal school unit
Maine School Administrative District No. 63
Town of Dedham, a municipal school unit
Town of Orrington, a municipal school unit

2. The size, composition and apportionment of the governing body.

The Regional School Unit 15 governing body will consist of 16 board members. One member will represent The Airline Community Sub-District, composed of Amherst, Aurora, Great Pond and Osborn. The remaining 15 members will represent their respective municipalities. (See question 3 for the member breakdown)

3. The method of voting of the governing body. (Voted 9/11/08)

METHOD "D" WEIGHTED VOTING – in compliance with the "one man – one vote principle".

<u>Municipality or Sub District</u>	<u>2007 Est. Federal Decennial Census</u>	<u>Percentage of Population</u>	<u>Total Votes</u>	<u>Number of Directors</u>	<u>Number of Votes Per Director</u>	<u>% of Voting Power per Director</u>
Airline Sub D	455	2.2%	455	1	455	2.2%
Brewer	9,079	43.9%	9,079	6	1,513	7.3%
Clifton	785	3.8%	785	1	785	3.8%
Dedham	1,474	7.1%	1,474	1	1,474	7.1%
Eddington	2,229	10.8%	2,229	2	1,115	5.4%
Holden	2,982	14.4%	2,982	2	1,491	7.2%
Orrington	<u>3,669</u>	<u>17.7%</u>	<u>3,669</u>	<u>3</u>	1,223	5.9%
Totals	<u>20,673</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>20,673</u>	<u>16</u>		

Each board member shall serve a 3-year term, except that the initial terms of the members of the first regional school unit board shall be staggered as provided by Section 20-A M.S.R.A. 1472B. Initial Board Members will be elected in 2009, with each city or town electing their subsequent representative as they normally do following the initial election.

4. The composition, powers and duties of any local school committees to be created.

Local school committees were approved as advisory committees, at the June 26, 2008 RSU 15 planning meeting. A motion made and passed, at the September 11, 2008 RSU 15 planning committee meeting, indicated "the size and composition of these committees would be determined by each municipality".

The appointment or election of local school committee members and their responsibilities allowed by law shall be determined by the respective member municipality, municipalities or sub-district.

5. The disposition of real and personal school property. (Voted 9/25/08)

A. Real Property and Fixtures. Except as listed below, all real property interests, including without limitation land, buildings, other improvements to realty, easements, option rights, first refusal rights, and purchase rights, and all fixtures, of the school administrative units shall be property of the region. The regional school unit board may require such deeds, assignments or other instruments of transfer as in its judgment is necessary to establish the region's right, title and interest in such real property and fixtures.

The following real property interests and associated fixtures shall not be transferred:

Name of SAU
Dedham

Description of Excluded Property
Dedham Municipal Office Building

SAD 63

12.14 acres of land as per Plisga & Day 10/23/08 survey, containing the Nature trail and additional land, adjacent to the Holden Town Office, not required for educational purposes
Transferred to the Town of Holden

All real property and fixtures not described in the above list shall be transferred to the regional school unit.

The disposition of the above non-transferred property, if any, shall be as follows:

Any excluded real property and fixtures shall become the property of the municipality in which it is located. The regional school unit shall comply with state law with respect to the closing of school buildings and the disposition and use of proceeds, if any from closing school buildings.

B. Personal Property. Except as listed below, all other tangible school personal property, including movable equipment, furnishings, textbooks and other curriculum materials, supplies, inventories, software, leases, licenses, rights of use and records of the existing school administrative units shall become the property of the regional school unit as their successor, **including all personal property except:**

<u>Name of SAU</u>	<u>Description of Excluded Personal Property</u>
N/A	None

The regional school unit board may require such assignments, bills of sale or other instruments of transfer as in its judgment is necessary to establish the region's right, title and interest in such personal property.

C. Agreements to Share Property. Existing practices relative to the attached Airline Community School District No. 8 and Orrington Community Libraries will continue unchanged into the new regional school unit.

6. The disposition of existing school indebtedness and lease-purchase obligations if the parties elect not to use the provisions of Section 1506 regarding the disposition of debt obligations.

A. Bonds, Notes and Lease Purchase Agreements That the Region Will Assume. The region shall assume liability to pay the following bonds, notes and lease purchase agreements:

<u>Name of SAU</u>	<u>Year Issued</u>	<u>Original Principal Amount</u>	<u>Asset Acquired, Constructed or Renovated</u>	<u>Principal Balance as of July 1, 2009</u>	<u>Final Maturity Date</u>
Airline	2007	\$ 74,487	Bus-Lease Purchase	\$ 37,189	July 2010
Brewer	1997	1,105,000	Brewer H.S.	585,000	Oct. 2018
Brewer	1999	450,000	Brewer H.S.	50,000	Oct. 2010
Brewer	2001	800,000	Brewer H.S.	585,000	Oct. 2022
Brewer	2005	1,511,786	Brewer H.S.	1,058,250	Oct. 2016
Brewer	2005	492,956		345,072	Oct. 2016
Brewer	2007	145,590	Copier Lease Purchase all Schools	72,795	Feb. 2012
Brewer	2007	16,996	Lease- Purchase Musical Equipment	5,944	Aug. 2009
Dedham	2007	16,641	Copier Lease Purchase	9,645	Aug. 2012
Dedham	2007	64,616	Lease- Purchase Bus	21,947	July 2009
Orrington	2006	65,480	Copier Lease Purchase	29,960	Dec. 2012
SAD 63	2006	135,664	Bus-Lease Purchase	25,730	Oct. 2009
SAD 63	2005	110,271	Copier Lease Purchase	22,054	Aug. 2009

Except as provided above no other bonds, notes and lease purchase agreements issued before the operative date of the region shall be assumed by the region.

B. Bonds, Notes and Lease Purchase Agreements That the Region Will Not Assume. Pursuant to 20-A M.R.S.A. § 1506(4), the region does not assume the following bonds, notes and lease purchase agreements, which shall continue to be paid by the original members of the SAU indicated, and the region shall serve as fiscal agent for the SAU for that purpose:

<u>Name of SAU</u>	<u>Year Issued</u>	<u>Original Principal Amount</u>	<u>Asset Acquired, Constructed or Renovated</u>	<u>Principal Balance as of July 1, 2009</u>	<u>Final Maturity Date</u>
SAD 63	2000	\$600,000	Holbrook Middle School	\$60,000	May 2010

C. New Capital Project Debt that Region Will Issue and Assume. If the voters or other applicable legislative body of an existing school administrative unit have authorized the issuance of bonds for a school construction or a minor capital project, but the SAU has not issued all of the authorized permanent bonds for that project, the regional school unit board shall issue bonds or notes to finance the completion of that project and to refund any temporary notes that the SAU issued for that project, as required by 20-A M.R.S.A. § 1506(5). With respect to such new project debt, the region shall assume liability to pay the following bonds, notes and lease purchase agreements:

<u>SAU</u>	<u>Project Description</u>	<u>Principal Amount</u>	<u>Date Authorized by SAU Legislative Body</u>
Brewer	K-8 School Building	\$ 36,717,383 <i>(100% State of Maine Approved Debt)</i>	December 4, 2007

D. New Capital Project Debt that the Region Will Issue But Will Not Assume. If the voters or other applicable legislative body of an existing school administrative unit has authorized the issuance of bonds for a school construction or a minor capital project, but the SAU has not issued all of the authorized permanent bonds for that project, the regional school unit board shall issue bonds or notes to finance the completion of that project and to refund any temporary notes that the SAU issued for that project, as required by 20-A M.R.S.A. § 1506(5). With respect to such new project debt, the region will not assume liability to pay the following bonds, notes and lease purchase agreements:

<u>SAU</u>	<u>Project Description</u>	<u>Principal Amount</u>	<u>Date Authorized by SAU Legislative Body</u>
Brewer	Performing Arts Center	\$ 2,770,500	December 4, 2007

E. Defaulted Debt is Excluded from Being Assumed. Notwithstanding anything in this Plan to the contrary, except where legally required to do so, the region will not assume any bond, note or lease purchase agreement as to which the existing SAU is in breach or has defaulted.

F. Other Debt Not Assumed. Except as provided in this section of the Plan, the region will not assume liability for any bonds, notes or lease purchase agreements issued by an existing SAU prior to the operative date of the region.

7. The assignment of school personnel contracts, school collective bargaining agreements and other school contractual obligations.

A. School Personnel Contracts. Pursuant to Section XXXX-43(5), individuals who have employment contracts with any of the existing school administrative units on the day before the operational date shall become employed by Regional School Unit 15 as of the operational date, and their contracts shall be assumed by Regional School Unit 15 on the operational date. This provision does not prevent the existing school administrative units from terminating or non-renewing the contracts of the employees in accordance with applicable law before the operational date of Regional School Unit 15. The list shall

be updated and made final no later than the day before the operational date of the Regional School Unit 15.

SAU	Contracting Party	Contract Type	Expiration Date
Airline CSD 8	Lead Teacher	Individual	6/30/2009
Brewer	Middle School Asst. Prin.	Individual	6/30/2009
Brewer	Principals, Dir. Of Instruction, Spec. Ed. Dir., Athletic Dir., Dir, Finance & Bus.	Individual	6/30/2011
Dedham	Principal/Assessment Coordinator/Curriculum Dir.	Individual	6/30/2009
Orrington	Principal	Individual	6/30/2009
Orrington	Asst. Principal	Individual	6/30/2010
Orrington	Spec. Ed. Dir.	Individual	6/30/2011
SAD 63	Middle School Principal, Special Ed. Dir., Trans/Operations Dir.	Individual	6/30/2009
SAD 63	Elementary School Principals, Bus. Mgr.	Individual	6/30/2010

A list of all employees of the existing school administrative units who do not have written individual contracts is attached as **Exhibit A**. Pursuant to Section XXX-43(5), individuals on the list who are employed on the day before the operational date shall become employed by Regional School Unit 15 as of the operational date. This provision does not prevent the existing school administrative units from terminating employment of the employees in accordance with applicable law before the operational date of the region. This list shall be updated and made final no later than the day before the operational date of Regional School Unit 15.

The duties and assignments of all employees transferred to Regional School Unit 15 shall be determined by the Superintendent of Regional School Unit 15 or his/her designee.

B. School Collective Bargaining Agreements. The following collective bargaining agreements to which the existing school administrative units are a party shall

be assumed by the regional school unit board as of the operational date:

SAU	Positions Included in Bargaining Unit	Next Termination Date
Airline CSD 8	N/A	N/A
Brewer	Teachers	August 31, 2009
Brewer	Educational Technicians	August 31, 2010
Brewer	Custodians/Maintenance/Food Service Personnel	August 31, 2010
Dedham	N/A	N/A
MSAD 63	Teachers	August 31, 2010
Orrington	Teachers	August 31, 2009

All successor contracts to the contracts expiring June 30, 2009 will be honored by the regional school unit board.

All of the employer's rights and responsibilities with respect to collective bargaining shall be fully assumed by Regional School Unit 15 board as of the operational date.

C. Other School Contractual Obligations. The following contracts to which the existing school administrative units are a party and that will be in effect as of the operational date shall be assumed by Regional School Unit 15:

SAU	Contracting Party	Type of Contract	Expiration Date

The SAU Board and superintendent shall seek to terminate or negotiate for termination of the following contracts prior to the operational date:

SAU	Contracting Party	Type of Contract	Expiration Date
None			

8. The disposition of existing school funds and existing financial obligations, including undesignated fund balances, trust funds, reserve funds and other funds appropriated for school purposes.

A. Existing Financial Obligations. Pursuant to Section XXXX-36(5) the disposition of existing financial obligations of the existing school administrative units is governed by this plan.

Existing financial obligations shall include the following:

- (i) all accounts payable;
- (ii) to the extent not included as accounts payable, any financial obligations which under generally accepted accounting principles would be considered expenses of the existing school administrative unit for any year prior to the year the Regional School Unit 15 becomes operational, *with the exception of summer salaries and benefits*, whether or not such expenses were budgeted by the existing school administrative unit in the year the obligations were incurred,
- (iii) all other liabilities arising under generally accepted accounting principles that can be reasonably estimated and are probable.

Each existing school administrative unit shall satisfy its existing financial obligations from all legally available funds. If an existing school administrative unit has not satisfied all of its existing financial obligations, the existing school administrative

unit shall transfer sufficient funds to the region to satisfy its remaining existing financial obligations, and the Regional School Unit 15 shall be authorized to satisfy those existing financial obligations on behalf of the school administrative unit. If the existing school administrative unit does not transfer to the region sufficient funds to satisfy its existing financial obligations, then to the extent permitted by law, the Regional School Unit 15 Board may satisfy those obligations from balances that the existing school administrative unit transfers to the region. If the available balances transferred are insufficient to satisfy the school administrative unit's existing financial obligations, or are not legally available for that purpose, the Regional School Unit 15 Board may take any action permitted by law so that all of the municipalities of the region are treated equitably with respect to the unsatisfied existing financial obligations of an existing school administrative unit. For example, to the extent permitted by law, the Regional School Unit 15 Board may satisfy the unpaid existing financial obligations of an existing school administrative unit in the same manner and with the same authority as for unassumed debt under the provisions of 20-A M.R.S.A. § 1506(4).

Additionally, to the extent permitted by law, if in the judgment of the Regional School Unit 15 Board it must raise funds from all its members to satisfy existing financial obligations of an existing school administrative unit, the Regional School District Board also shall be authorized to raise additional amounts for the purpose of making equitable distributions (which may be made in the form of credits against assessed local shares of the region's approved budget) to those region members that would otherwise bear costs attributable to unsatisfied existing financial obligations of an existing school administrative unit for which they had no financial responsibility. The intent of the preceding sentence is that financial responsibility for unsatisfied existing financial obligations of an existing school administrative unit be borne by the region members or members formerly comprising that school administrative unit and not by the other members of the region.

- B. Remaining Balances. The balance remaining in the existing school administrative unit's school accounts after the school administrative unit has satisfied existing financial obligations in accordance with this plan shall be paid to the treasurer of the regional school unit, verified by audit and used to reduce that SAU's contribution as provided by Section XXXX-43(4). The balance from an existing school administrative unit must be used to reduce the local contribution to the region of the region member or the region members formerly comprising that school administrative unit within the first three years of operation of the region. Unless the Legislature otherwise provides, in the case of Airline Consolidated School District No.8 and Maine School Administrative District No.63 the school board of the applicable district shall specify in writing to the regional school unit board how the region shall allocate credit for transferred remaining balances between the municipalities of the CSD and the SAD. Unless the

Legislature otherwise provides, if the district board has not specified in writing to the regional school unit board how this allocation shall occur, then the transferred remaining balances shall be credited to the district's members in proportion to their respective shares of that portion of the total local costs of the region allocable to all of the district's members for the operational year.

Transfers of remaining balances by CSD No. 8 and SAD No. 63 shall occur before the districts have closed their accounts and ceased normal operations. Transfer of the remaining balances of Brewer, Dedham and Orrington shall occur within the period specified by Section XXXX-43(4).

C. Reserve Funds. Existing school administrative units shall transfer remaining balances of reserve funds to the regional school unit. Unless otherwise provided by applicable law, a transferred reserve fund shall be used in accordance with its original purpose to benefit a school or schools of the existing school administrative unit. Transferred reserve funds shall be subject to Title 20-A M.R.S.A. § 1491, except that the transfer of funds in a reserve fund or a change in purpose of the fund may only occur in such manner that the funds continue to benefit the members of the region comprising the school administrative unit that transferred that reserve fund to the region.

D. Scholarship Funds. Existing school administrative units shall transfer remaining balances of scholarship funds to the region. Scholarships shall be limited to the original pool of potential recipients unless otherwise provided by the donor or by applicable law.

E. Trust Funds. Existing school administrative units shall transfer trust funds to the region. The regional school union board shall be deemed the successor trustee for all purposes, except as provided by the trust or by applicable law.

F. Ownership of Funds and Accounts. All of the school accounts and funds of the existing school administrative units shall become the property of Regional School District No.15 on the operational date, and the treasurer of Regional School Unit 15 shall have the authority of those accounts.

9. A transition powers and duties of initial regional school unit board.

A. Transition Plan for Budget Development. The Regional School Unit 15 School Board shall establish interim rules of procedure and shall elect interim officers who shall serve until officers are elected at a meeting following the operational date of the region.

The Regional School Unit 15 School Board shall select a Superintendent of schools in accordance with Section 1051 of Title 20-A. During the interim period, the salary, office and other expenses of the superintendent, as well as the cost of the regional school unit board, including insurance, shall be allocated to the school administrative units as provided below.

If a region is formed to become operational as of July 1, 2009, then following the issuance of a certificate of organization by the State Board of Education, the school boards and Superintendents of the SAUs within the region shall begin a process for developing proposed budgets for educational programs and services within their SAUs for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2009. In developing their proposed budget, the SAUs shall consider potential cost savings and additional costs that may result from reorganization. The SAUs also shall consider changes in operations that may be necessary in order to reduce costs of administration, special education, building and maintenance and transportation without adversely affecting the educational program. During the months of February and March, the school boards of the SAUs and their Superintendents shall conduct joint meetings and budget workshops as necessary to develop a proposed budget for the first operational year of the regional school unit. Specific duties may be assigned to existing personnel with the approval of the employing SAU.

A proposed budget with supporting documentation shall be developed in time for its presentation to and consideration by the initial regional school unit board of directors. The Regional School Unit 15 School Board shall complete the budget development process and recommend a budget for consideration by the voters.

The Regional School Unit 15 School Board shall propose and approve a recommended budget in accordance with 20-A M.R.S.A. § 1482 for the first operational year for submission to the voters of the region. The budget format, approval procedures and assessments for the regional school unit's first operational year budget shall be in accordance with 20-A M.R.S.A. §§ 1482-1489. The Regional School Unit 15 School Board shall have all necessary authority for those purposes. This shall be considered the first year of use of the budget validation referendum process for purposes of determining the continued use of the budget validation referendum process every three years pursuant to Section 1486(1).

The regional school unit board shall be authorized to take all other actions and shall have all other authority provided under state law to prepare for the regional school unit to become operational on July 1 of the first operational year; including the authority to open and maintain accounts, to incur expenses not to exceed \$50,000 to be allocated among the regional school units' member SAUs in accordance with the **50% student/50% valuation cost sharing formula approved by vote 9/25/08** and to file applications for

school construction projects and revolving renovation fund loans and other available funding.

B. Transition Plan for Personnel Policies. All personnel policies existing in the previous school administrative units shall continue to apply to the same employment positions after they become part of the Regional School Unit 15. After the operational date, the Regional School Unit 15 School Board and Superintendent will develop and adopt region-wide policies in accordance with applicable law.

10. Documentation of the public meeting or public meetings held to prepare or review the reorganization plan.

Minutes of the following public meeting(s) held to prepare or review the reorganization plan are attached as Exhibit 10-A:

Date of Public Meeting	Time	Location
November 6, 2008	6:30	Brewer High School
October 30, 2008	6:30	Brewer High School
October 9, 2008	6:30	Brewer High School
September 25, 2008	6:30	Brewer High School
September 11, 2008	6:30	Brewer High School
August 21, 2008	6:30	Brewer High School
July 24, 2008	6:30	Brewer High School
June 26, 2008	6:30	Brewer High School
May 15, 2008	6:30	Dedham School
April 29, 2008	6:30	Center Drive School
February 27, 2008	6:30	Holbrook Middle School
January 10, 2008	6:30	Brewer High School
November 19, 2007	6:30	Center Drive School
November 7, 2007	6:30	Airline Community School
October 11, 2007	6:30	Dedham School
September 13, 2007	6:30	Holbrook Middle School
August 23, 2007	6:30	Brewer High School
July 24, 2007	6:30	Center Drive School

11. An explanation of how units that approve the reorganization plan will proceed if one or more of the proposed members of the regional school unit fail to approve the plan.

If one or more of the proposed members of the region fail to approve the plan, the existing school administrative units that approve the plan shall proceed as follows:

If despite rejection by one or more proposed members of the region, the plan is approved by each of the applicable school administrative units pursuant to Section XXXX-36(9), the plan is approved for all proposed members of the region in accordance with Section XXXX-36(9).

If the plan is rejected by one or more of the existing school administrative units, A successful Regional School Unit 15 vote from the towns of Amherst, Aurora, Great Pond, Osborn, Clifton, Eddington, Holden, Dedham, Brewer, and Orrington, would be any combination of students exceeding 2,500 or not less than 1,200 that include a publicly supported high school, except that the Commissioner may determine the necessity for reapportionment pursuant to 20-A M.R.S.A. § 1475.

12. An estimate of the cost savings to be achieved by the formation of a regional school unit and how these savings will be achieved.

We estimate that the formation of the regional school unit will result in the following cost savings during the first three years of operation:

First year – 2009 - 2010:

Estimated savings:	386,335
Estimated additional costs:	47,000
Net savings (or costs):	339,335

Second year – 2010 - 2011:

Estimated savings:	401,788
Estimated additional costs:	1,996,855
Net savings (or costs):	(1,595,067)

Third year – 2011 - 2012:

Estimated savings:	417,859
Estimated additional costs:	2,016,825
Net savings (or costs):	(1,598,966)

Total estimated savings (or costs): (2,854,698)

The estimated cost increases beginning in 2010-2011 result from the extreme disparity between salaries and wages provided by policy or collective bargaining agreements in Brewer as compared to similar positions in the other RSU 15 Districts and the assumption the higher compensation levels in Brewer would be reflected in the negotiation of unified agreements.

13. Such other matters as the governing bodies of the school administrative units in existence on the effective date of this chapter may determine to be necessary.

13-A. Plans to reorganize administration, transportation, building and maintenance and special education.

Administration: Currently, central office administrative processes are handled through three independent offices. This proposal combines the administrative operation at one site reducing staff from 13.6 to 8. Other administrative costs are able to be reduced as well resulting in total estimated cost savings of \$263,117. Approximately \$25,000 in cost savings are currently being realized via an administrative agreement between Brewer and Dedham.

Transportation: Cost savings in transportation are difficult to project. Approximately \$15,000 in cost saving are being realized via a service contract between Dedham and SAD #63. These Districts along with the Airline CSD own and operate their own buses, while Brewer and Orrington contract transportation with two different companies. With the volatility of fuel prices and increasing compensation costs, the RSU planning committee has determined the RSU Board will decide whether cost savings will be realized via maintaining their own fleet of buses or contracting with an outside company. This plan leaves the operation of transportation as it currently operates within the municipalities of RSU 15.

Buildings Operation and Maintenance: With the closing of Brewer's existing Prek-8 schools and the occupation of a new consolidated building in the summer of 2011, operational savings will be realized. Building and grounds supervisor will be utilized. Efficiencies in purchasing and use of staff will eventually result in a more effective operation. At this time it is difficult to provide specifics.

Special Education: Presently, Brewer High School is the primary provider for students qualifying for services. That will not change if RSU 15 becomes a reality. There will be some economies in programming for Prek-8 students, but it is premature to project what the changes will be at this time and whether or not programming changes will result in cost savings.

13-B. Cost Sharing in Regional School Units

For reorganization plans that include cost sharing agreements applicable to funds raised in addition to the required local contribution pursuant to Title 20-A M.R.S.A. Section 15690, subsection 1 which are not based on the same local share percentages for each municipality as the required local contribution under Section 15688, the following provision or a similar provision should be included in the plan:

The regional school unit may raise money, in addition to the required local contribution pursuant to Title 20-A, Section 15690, subsection 1 for educational purposes. The additional local costs of operating the regional school unit shall be shared among all the municipalities within the regional school unit on the basis of the following formula:

- a) 50% shall be shared on the basis of the fiscal capacity of each member municipality; and
- b) 50% shall be shared on the basis of the number of resident pupils in each member municipality.

This local cost sharing formula applies only to the amount, if any, of additional local funds and non-state funded debt service raised by the regional school unit. It does not apply to the required local contributions raised by each municipality pursuant to 20-A M.R.S.A. § 15688.

13-C. Election of initial board of directors.

Within 30 days of the issuance of a certificate of organization for the Regional School Unit 15 School Unit by the State Board of Education, the members of the school boards of the school administrative units within the Regional School Unit 15 School Unit shall conduct a joint meeting for the purpose of electing an interim secretary of the Regional School Unit 15 School Unit and determining a date for the election of the initial board of directors of the Regional School Unit 15 School Unit. The interim secretary shall notify the municipal officers of the member municipalities of the regional school unit of the date of the election. The election shall be conducted in accordance with Title 30-A Chapter 121 of the Maine Revised Statutes, as amended by Section 1473(2) of Chapter 103-A of Title 20-A of the Maine Revised Statutes, except that the election duties of the secretary and board of directors of the RSU 15 School Unit shall be performed by the interim secretary. The duties of the interim secretary shall include:

- 1) notification of the municipal officers of the date of the election;
- 2) furnishing nomination papers at least 10 days before the deadline for filing nomination papers;
- 3) receipt of completed nomination papers in accordance with 20-A M.R.S.A. §1473;
- 4) preparation and distribution of election ballots in accordance with 20-A M.R.S.A. §1473;
- 5) receipt of town clerk's certification of the results of the voting in each member municipality;
- 6) tabulation of the town clerk's certification of the results of the voting in each municipality;
- 7) accepting any recount petitions that may be filed pursuant to 20-A M.R.S.A. §1473; and
- 8) totaling the votes cast for each candidate and notifying the clerks in each municipality, the candidates, and the Commissioner of Education of the final results of the voting and the names and addresses of the persons elected as directors.

In accordance with 20-A M.R.S.A. §1473(1), the clerk of each municipality within the regional school unit shall forward the name(s) and address(es) of the director(s) elected to

represent that municipality to the State Board of Education with such other data with regard to their election as the State Board of Education may require. On receipt of the names and addresses of all of the directors, the State Board of Education shall set a time, place and date for the first meeting of the directors and give notice to the directors in writing, sent by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, to the address provided by the municipalities.

3-D. School Choice

The following SAUs offer some or all of their students a choice of which school to attend:

SAU	Description
Airline CSD No. 8	Offers all students 9-12 choice to attend any secondary school approved for tuition purposes.
Dedham	Offers all students 9-12 choice to attend any secondary school approved for tuition purposes.
MSAD No. 63	Offers all students 9-12 choice to attend any secondary school approved for tuition purposes.
Orrington	Offers all students 9-12 choice to attend any secondary school approved for tuition purposes.

Grade levels in the existing SAUs that have choice of schools as of the operational date shall continue to have the same choices in the RSU. It is the intent of this RSU to maintain the current system of choice that is now in place. The SAUs' that currently have choice, will continue to do so. Transportation will continue to be provided to those secondary schools now serviced by those communities with choice.

Pending choice comment.

13-E. Claims and Insurance

Disclosure of claims

The parties are aware of the following lawsuits, administrative complaints, due process proceedings, notices of claim and other claims existing as of June 30, 2009.

SAU	Claimant	Title of Proceeding	Jurisdiction	Nature of claim
Brewer	Kelly Cookson	Kelly Cookson v. Brewer	State Supreme Court	Discrimination in Hiring
MSAD #63	Louise Regan	Louise Regan v. MSAD #63	First U.S. District Court	Various

Legal fees and potential monetary judgments against an existing SAU resulting from the claims listed above will remain the responsibility of the SAU.

13-F. Vote to submit reorganization plan to Commissioner.

Before submitting the reorganization plan to the Commissioner of Education the governing body of each school administrative unit shall adopt the following vote:

Vote to be Adopted by the Regional School Unit 15 School Board to Submit Reorganization Plan to Commissioner:

VOTED: That the provisions included in the school reorganization plan prepared by the Regional School Unit 15 Reorganization Planning Committee to reorganize into a regional school unit with an operational date of July 1, 2009, are determined to be necessary within the meaning of Section XXXX-36(5)(M) and that the Superintendent of Schools be, and hereby is, authorized and directed to submit the school reorganization plan to the Commissioner of Education on behalf of this school administrative unit by November 14, 2008.

AGENDA
RSU 15 Regional Planning Committee
November 6, 2008
Brewer High Library
6:30 p.m.

Call to Order: **Chairman Kyle Casburn**

Flag Salute

Minutes: **October 30, 2008**

Update: **Dr. McIntire**

Items for consideration:

1. Review of the cost analysis in the revised RSU plan.
2. Vote on taking the RSU plan to Municipal School Committees for submission to the Department of Education.
3. Other:

Time for public comment:

RSU 15 Regional Planning Committee Minutes
October 30, 2008
Brewer High Library
6:30 p.m.

Call to Order: **Chairman Kyle Casburn called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.**

Flag Salute

Minutes: **The October 9, 2008, minutes were approved.**

Update: **Dr. McIntire provided an update regarding consolidation:**

Dr. McIntire told the group that Winslow and Madison have decided *not* to submit plans for an RSU. These Boards will be held in violation of State law for failure to submit plans. More information about this can be found on-line. The commissioner has said that she will not be able to excuse a district that can't consolidate. The referendum to repeal the consolidation legislation is being reviewed; the signatures need to be certified and the legislation will be frozen at that point. If the repeal is successful, the law would go into effect within 30 to 45 days; return to previous legislation would happen in February of 2010, should the repeal be successful.

Items for consideration:

1. Presentation of the Budget (revision at 10/30 meeting)

Lester Young passed out a copy of the propose budget for the RSU. He explained the process for developing this budget. The budgets are estimated FY 09-10 school budgets from each of the 10 municipalities and are calculated using flat funding. There is revenue data included in each, based on last year's budget. The cost of non-consolidation Penalties for each municipality is included. Lester said that every municipality will pay less if the regionalization occurs. He said that it will be a tough budget year no matter what happens. Lester said that the local debt is built into the regional budget (new debt does not show in this budge). All the central office costs are included in this budget. Yvonne Mitchell said that if you combine the total of the local funds, which vary from town to town, you need to consider a cost shift model in developing budgets. Carry forward balances are not show in the report; because there is no way to calculate what that will be this early in the year.

The tuition budget was based on 60% students going to Brewer High School and 40% going to some other high school. No tuition revenue or expense shows up in this budget. Sending districts should probably budget for extra students.

If Brewer assumed all of their own debt, there would be \$200,000 extra debt, plus State penalties for not consolidating. Yvonne said that she has backup figures to explain the budget presented tonight. Yvonne said that she would e mail this to members.

2. Discussion of existing debt

Kyle Casburn reviewed the recommendations made by the RPC Finance committee which met on October 30, 2008 on the existing debt.

A motion was made by Carter Jones and a seconded by John Mugnai.

The motion was made that upon its formation, the Regional School Unit 15 should assume the existing local debt of Brewer School Dept. Further, that there be a stipulation for payback whereby the proceeds from the sale or rental of RSU properties that have reverted to the municipality of Brewer with debt service having been paid by the RSU, first be used to reimburse the contributing members (excluding Brewer) up to the dollar amount they contributed as an RSU member.

A vote on the motion resulted in 15 YES votes and 11 No votes. The motion carried.

A similar motion was made regarding existing Holbrook debt. The SAD 63 existing debt will not be assumed the RSU

There was a unanimous vote of Yes. The motion carried.

3. Discussion of anticipated debt:

If the building were sold, each party would receive their share of the monies that they put into the building. There was discussion about how this debt would be handled. Dan explained that the RSU would manage the gate proceeds. The deed would be held by the RSU. He said you have to "value engineer" the voters said how much could be spent and they have to come in below cost. There was discussion about the bond issue. The bond for the new school and performing arts center was supposed to happen in April, before the RSU formed, but now that date has changed and the center will happen after the project begins.

A motion was made that upon its formation, the Regional School Unit 15 should assume the local portion of debt for Brewer's new school construction, that being for the Performing Arts Center. Further, that there be a stipulation for payback whereby the proceeds from the sale or rental of this property that has reverted to the municipality of Brewer with debt service having been paid by the RSU, first be used to reimburse the contributing members (excluding Brewer) up to the dollar amount they contributed as an RSU member.

A motion was made and seconded. The vote was taken. The Motion was defeated.

4. Disposition of property/Dedham Town Office and Holden land

Dan Lee was asked about the disposition of properties. He reported that the RPC planning committee is proposing that all properties except for the Town Office of Dedham be transferred to the RSU. Holden has agreed that the school property, parking lot and playground will be deeded to the RSU. The other town property will continue to be held by the Town of Holden.

There was a question about legal assistance regarding the RSU plan that is being developed. Dan Lee suggested that lawyer assistance is not needed at this time. There

was discussion about the submission of the RSU plan and the approval process. The plan must be submitted by November 14 and Walt McIntire said that he thinks that there will be an approval or disapproval by November 21.

5. Estimated cost savings:

Discussed in agenda question #1.

6. Other:

There was discussion about guidance about cost sharing and penalties for non-participation. Walt McIntire said that the consolidation law expects that the people who meet the requirements for an RSU will have financial benefits.

Questions were asked to be considered on at the November 6 RPC meeting:

- 1. Year one, two and three cost savings will be presented.**
- 2. The plan will include updates.**
- 3. The RSU plan will be reviewed in preparation of submission**

Time for public comment:

The next meeting will be on November 6, at Brewer High School, at 6:30 PM. 14, 2008.

Minutes
RSU #15 Regional Planning Committee
October 9, 2008
Brewer High Library
6:30 P.M.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kyle Casburn.

Flag Salute

Minutes of Sept. 25: The minutes were approved.

Update: Dr. McIntire provided an update regarding consolidation as it is occurring statewide.

Items for Consideration:

1. Identification of Appointed RPC members:

Each of the three elected RPC members from each of ten municipalities signed a recording document for the RPC.

2. Distribute the draft re-organization plan.

Dr. McIntire explained the process for reviewing the draft RSU plan. He walked members through the document. Notes as follows:

Pages 4/5 discuss the disposition of real and personal property. Mr. Snell noted that the Orrington Town Manager, as Town Treasurer, would recommend that the Town Library and the athletic fields be turned over to the RSU. Airline has a community library; its disposition is undecided at this point. There is no excluded personal property.

Pages 6-7 deals with existing school indebtedness.

Pages 8-9 deals with new capitol project debt to assumed/not assumed by the RSU. (*The finance committee will meet tonight to discuss financial issues*)

Pages 10-11 is focused on school personnel contracts and collective bargaining. Contracted persons have annual contracts that will expire in June and the new RSU will have the opportunity to continue those contracts, if they choose to do so. Existing school personnel contracts will be carried over by the RSU. Collective bargaining contracts will be listed with the dates scheduled for renegotiation.

Pages 12-13 deal with how remaining fund balances will be managed by the RSU. Dr. Lee explained that all schools have carry over funds each year. Each town's fund balance would go to the RSU and these funds would be designated for the assessment due from each town to the RSU over a period of three years. Capital reserve funds would continue to be available to the town for the purpose designated by the town who carries the funds. There was discussion about the language on page 13, part B, line 9. Mr. Casburn summarized the suggestions around changing the language or leaving it as is.

A motion was made to amend the draft language on page 13, part B, Remaining Balances.

The motion failed; the draft language will remain as is.

Pages 14, 15, 16 discuss the transition powers of the initial regional school unit. Dr. McIntire recommended that the RPC allocate \$50,000 to the RSU for the transition process. The RPC planning committee suggests that \$50,000 would be sufficient.

A motion was made to approve \$50,000 for the transition process.

The motion passed.

Pages 16-22: Discussion of transition process

Dr. McIntire reported that the consolidation law requires that the RPC submit a name for the new RSU. The planning committee suggested RSU 15.

A motion was made to call the RSU Regional School Unit 15.

The motion passed.

3. A joint board meeting will need to be scheduled for February 12, 2009 to appoint the RSU 15 interim secretary

A secretary will be appointed to organize the elections for the RPC board which should occur in March or April. The secretary will be the administrator who will organize the required elections. Dr. Lee will provide information regarding funding for the election.

A motion was made to approve the Feb 12 date for the appointment of an RSU secretary.

The motion passed.

4. Discussion of RSU 15 local existing debt:

Mr. Young explained the existing local Brewer High School debt. He provided a handout that outlines the debt and discussed the improvements that were made to Brewer High School. Brewer High School is valued at \$35,000,000. Mr. Young explained the costs of maintaining this building. He said that Brewer High School has had the lowest per pupils costs (regional) for the last three years.

A motion was made to accept Brewer's existing local debt. The amount is \$3,230,664. The group had a brief discussion.

The motion was defeated.

A second motion was made to revisit the local existing debt question at the October 30, 2008 RPC meeting. The motion passed.

5. Other:

The finance committee will meet after this meeting.

Time for Public Comment:

No additional comments.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.. The next RPC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 30 at the Brewer High School Library at 6:30 P.M.

Items to be considered at the next RPC meeting:

- There will be discussion about Brewer's local debt on the new Pre-K through eight school.
- There will be discussion about the Brewer's local existing debt.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Lorigan

The RSP finance committee met at Holbrook School September 16th to discuss financial issues relating to the formation of RSU-15. Those present, Lester Young, Supt. Dan Lee, Al Jellerson, Kyle Casburn, Amanda Bost, Yvonne Mitchell and Don Varnum.

Items discussed were:

1. Disposition for local debt.

This item will be on the agenda for the Oct. 8th meeting in order to fully prepare documentation And will be mailed to members so they will have an opportunity review and prepare questions.

2. Transfer of fund balances held by each school unit and usage.

- A. Will be used to defray operating budget costs of the fund balance owner IAW the cost sharing percentage for that town.
- B. Maybe used over a period of three years in order not to create false budget savings figures.
- C. Fund balance cannot exceed 3% of operating budget. Excess must be used to defray operating Budget for next FY.
- D. Important to note that each town will get back the amount that is in its' fund balance.

3. Transfer of reserve funds.

- A. Reserve funds will be transferred to the RSU Treasurer.
- B. Will be held in an account in each towns name to be used for capital projects/equipment purchases/specific item.
- C. Distribution to be made IAW cost sharing percentages.

4. Transfer of scholarship funds and/or trust funds.

- A. Brewer High School has a scholarship fund and will continue to be used in the past
- B. Any other funds of this type are privately administered

5. How will the RSU handle unfunded liabilities [summer payroll]

- A. SAD 63 and Dedham are the only school unit that accrues this liability. Unable to confirm CSD-8 status as of today.
- B. RSU will pay all summer salaries from the RSU budget

6. Assumption of bonds/notes and lease purchases.

- A. No action taken -open item

7. How will we report cost savings document.

Items discussed:

- Consolidation of central service office and staff
- Review and determine requirements for special services such as speech/physical therapy personnel etc. Combining where possible.
- Economies of scale in all personnel areas.
- Consolidation of purchasing and bidding of services and items.
- Bus routing
- Review student/ teacher ratios

8. Will the RSU assume financial liability for existing law suits or other legal claims.

A. Agreed that the school unit where the liability/claim was incurred would be responsible for those costs.

B. Should review insurance coverage and carrier

9. What is our plan or schedule to unify collective bargaining agreements.

A. All Teachers Associations contract are with the MEA and expire in 2010 and will be negotiated then.

B. Brewer also has contracts with Ed. Techs and Food Service and Maintenance staff. Their contracts expire in 2010 also

Respectfully submitted
Donald Varnum

Minutes
RSU 15 Regional Planning Committee
September 11, 2008
6:30 p.m.
Brewer High School Library

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kyle Casburn. The committee observed a moment of silence in remembrance of 9/11/2001, followed by the flag salute.

The minutes were approved as mailed.

Dr. McIntire reported on two items. The model we must use in preparing our plan is that provided by Drummond and Woodson. The working deadline for submitting our plan is November 14, 2008.

Agenda items considered:

- I. **Acceptance of CSD 8 into the RSU plan.** Since we filed two notices of intent, one of which included CSD 8, no further action is necessary. Mr. Casburn welcomed the CSD 8 members.
- II. **New Board Structure inclusive of CSD 8**---a draft proposal, including CSD 8 as a sub-district and retaining a 15 member board based on Apportionment Plan D, was submitted. It is in compliance with the "one man-one vote" principle.
The RPC approved the plan unanimously after discussion.
- III. On the matter of pursuing the AOS plan as a possibility, it was reported that Queries to the DOE said it wouldn't work. Brewer has the only high school and they were not interested in an AOS. So the RPC proceeds to form an RSU, with the note from one member who objected.
- III. **On the matter of local school committees:** Local committees on an advisory basis were approved in the June 2008 meeting. A motion tonight said "the size and composition of these committees would be determined by each municipality."
The motion passed unanimously.
- IV. **On the matter of a cost sharing formula,** a spread sheet was distributed which demonstrated a 50% students-50% evaluation formula. A motion to use the 50/50 formula was made and carried.
- V. **Research on the matter of towns leasing schools to the RSU.** In checking with the Maine Municipal Association, Dr. Lee informed the RPC that towns leasing schools to the RSU would violate the Maine Tort Claims Act which limits the extent to which towns and schools are liable. Dr. Lee is expecting a

letter from MMA which will be e-mailed to the RPC when it is received. The matter will be on the agenda of the next meeting.

- VI. **Language relative to the RSU moving forward after town votes.** Wording for such a motion was suggested. It is included here for RPC comment. Any changes or suggestions should be sent to r.townsend@msln.net before the September planning meeting on Sept. 18.

- VII. The matter of local debt will be discussed at the next meeting. More accurate costs were requested.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15. Next RPC meeting is September 25, 2008 at Brewer High School library at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Townsend

Wording for motion regarding a successful RSU, submitted by Jerry Goss.

"A successful RSU vote would be any combination of students exceeding 2500 including Brewer or any combination not less than 1200 students including Brewer."

Or suggested by Gail Kelly,

"A successful RSU vote would be approval by Brewer and any other community with student population greater than 1200."

Also recommended, adding a phrase that we would work diligently to bring all towns into the RSU.

Minutes
RSU 15 Regional Planning Committee
September 25, 2008
6:30 p.m.
Brewer High School Library

Call to Order—Kyle Casburn, Chair

Flag Salute

Minutes approved with stated corrections

There was no new information for Dr. McIntire to provide.

Agenda Items:

1. Eligible voters of the RPC only were to be seated around the tables
2. **Status of consideration of Alternative Plan**
Extensive discussion of the choice between an RSU or an AOS resulted in a proposal for an AOS to be put to bed. The motion was seconded. The vote was 15 yes, 11 opposed. The RSU plan was approved.
3. **Board Size**
Representatives from CSD 8 were asked at the last meeting to consult with their towns to decide on one or four members to the RSU Board. Either way, the percent of representation was to be the same. Consensus was that CSD 8 would have one representative
4. **Leases vs. deeds**
Based on the letter from Drummond and Woodsun regarding issues of liability insurance with leases, the RPC voted unanimously to deed buildings and their contents to the RSU.
A request for list of each unit's properties was again made.
5. **Wording for successful RSU**
Working from two proposals at the last meeting, the RPC concluded it would not be good to mention Brewer in the proposal. The following wording was proposed and approved.
"A successful RSU vote from the towns of Aurora, Amherst, Great Pond, Oshorn, Clifton, Fiddington, Holden, Dedham, Brewer, and Orrington, would be any combination of students exceeding 2500 or not less than 1200 that included a publicly supported high school."

6. About preparation of a proposed budget for the RSU

Lester Young explained the difficulties of budget preparation at this time, especially not having firm knowledge of income to the RSU. He acknowledged the need to be able to tell voters something about costs. Realistically there will probably not be any savings in the short term, but costs will be contained in the future. Finance Committee will try to come up with a tentative budget.

7. Finance report-

Don Varnum presented the finance committee's report as included in the agenda for the Sept. 25 meeting. The report was prepared in an extra meeting of the finance committee.

8. Date for January referendum

The recommendation was made for the last possible referendum time to be Tuesday, January 27, 2009. All voting will be held on the same day.

Representatives were asked to check with their towns' clerks for approval of that date. Barring any changes resulting from that the RPC voted unanimously for the date of January 27, 2009.

9. October Meeting dates.

October 9, 2008, 6:30 pm at Brewer High School; Changed date from October 23 to October 30, 6:30 pm at Brewer High School. The superintendent planning group will meet on Oct. 2 to begin writing a draft of the RSU plan.

Agenda items for next meeting

Issue of local debt

List of properties to be submitted

Review of draft proposal

The RSP finance committee met at Holbrook School September 16th to discuss financial issues relating to the formation of RSU-15. Those present, Lester Young, Supt. Dan Lee, Al Jellerson, Kyle Casburn, Amanda Bost, Yvonne Mitchell and Don Varnum.

Items discussed were:

1. Disposition for local debt.

This item will be on the agenda for the Oct. 9th meeting in order to fully prepare documentation And will be mailed to members so they will have an opportunity review and prepare questions.

2. Transfer of fund balances held by each school unit and usage.

- A. Will be used to defray operating budget costs of the fund balance owner IAW the cost sharing percentage for that town.
- B. Maybe used over a period of three years in order not to create false budget savings figures.
- C. Fund balance cannot exceed 3% of operating budget. Excess must be used to defray operating Budget for next FY.
- D. Important to note that each town will get back the amount that is in its' fund balance.

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- A. Reserve funds will be transferred to the RSU ^{supt} Treasurer.
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- A. Brewer High School has a scholarship fund and will continue to be used in the past
- B. Any other funds of this type are privately administered

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- A. SAD 63 and Dedham are the only school unit that accrues this liability. Unable to confirm CSD-8 status as of today.
- B. RSU will pay all summer salaries from the RSU budget

6. Assumption of bonds/notes and lease purchases.

- A. No action taken -open item

7. How will we report cost savings document.

Items discussed:

- Consolidation of central service office and staff
- Review and determine requirements for special services such as speech/physical therapy personnel etc. Combining where possible.
- Economies of scale in all personnel areas.
- Consolidation of purchasing and bidding of services and items.
- Bus routing
- Review student/ teacher ratios

8. Will the RSU assume financial liability for existing law suits or other legal claims.

A. Agreed that the school unit where the liability/claim was incurred would be responsible for those costs.

B. Should review insurance coverage and carrier

9. What is our plan or schedule to unify collective bargaining agreements.

A. All Teachers Associations contract are with the MEA and expire in 2010 and will be negotiated then.

B. Brewer also has contracts with Ed. Techs and Food Service and Maintenance staff. Their contracts expire in 2010 also

Respectfully submitted
Donald Varnum

Minutes
RSU 15 Regional Planning Committee
September 11, 2008
6:30 p.m.
Brewer High School Library

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kyle Casburn. The committee observed a moment of silence in remembrance of 9/11/2001, followed by the flag salute.

The minutes were approved as mailed.

Dr. McIntire reported on two items. The model we must use in preparing our plan is that provided by Drummond and Woodson. The working deadline for submitting our plan is November 14, 2008.

Agenda items considered:

- I. **Acceptance of CSD 8 into the RSU plan.** Since we filed two notices of intent, one of which included CSD 8, no further action is necessary. Mr. Casburn welcomed the CSD 8 members.
- II. **New Board Structure inclusive of CSD 8**—a draft proposal, including CSD 8 as a sub-district and creating an RSU board based on Apportionment Plan D, was submitted. CSD 8 must decide locally to have 1 or 4 members. Either way their vote or votes will equal the same weighted amount on the RSU board as presented. The proposal is in compliance with the “one man-one vote” principle.
The RPC approved the 16 member plan unanimously after discussion.
- III. **On the matter of pursuing the AOS plan as a possibility,** it was reported that Queries to the DOE said it wouldn't work. Brewer has the only high school and they were not interested in an AOS. So the RPC proceeds to form an RSU, with the note from one member who objected.
- IV. **On the matter of local school committees:** Local committees on an advisory basis were approved in the June 2008 meeting. A motion tonight said “the size and composition of these committees would be determined by each municipality.”
The motion passed unanimously.
- V. **On the matter of a cost sharing formula,** a spread sheet was distributed which demonstrated a 50% students-50% evaluation formula. A motion to use the 50/50 formula was made and carried.

VI. **Research on the matter of towns leasing schools to the RSU.** In checking with the Maine Municipal Association, Dr. Lee informed the RPC that towns leasing schools to the RSU would not be accorded protection under the Maine Tort Claims Act which limits the extent to which towns and schools are liable. Dr. Lee is expecting a letter from MMA which will be e-mailed to the RPC when it is received. The matter will be on the agenda of the next meeting.

VII. **Language relative to the RSU moving forward after town votes.** Wording for such a motion was suggested. It is included here for RPC comment. Any changes or suggestions should be sent to r.townsend@msln.net before the September planning meeting on Sept. 18.

VIII. The matter of local debt will be discussed at the next meeting. More accurate costs were requested.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15. Next RPC meeting is September 25, 2008 at Brewer High School library at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Townsend

Wording for motion regarding a successful RSU, submitted by Jerry Goss.

'A successful RSU vote would be any combination of students exceeding 2500 including Brewer or any combination not less than 1200 students including Brewer.'

Or suggested by Gail Kelly,

"A successful RSU vote would be approval by Brewer and any other community with student population greater than 1200."

Also recommended, adding a phrase that we would work diligently to bring all towns into the RSU.

**Minutes, Proposed RSU 15 meeting
Brewer High School
August 21, 2008
6:30 pm**

Call to Order—Kyle Casburn

Flag Salute

Minutes- accepted as e-mailed

State Update: Dr. McIntosh reports there is nothing new to consider

Presentation—Dr. Lee

Dr. Lee shared his thinking on the reorganization plan and framed his remarks around the stages of grieving: denial, anger, depression, acceptance. He shared that he had gone through these stages and that many in the meeting had done likewise. We might have our own agendas, but he was reminded that there are 3400 students in our area whose future is in our hands. Are there good things about reorganization? Yes. Better programming for our students, for example, Gifted and Talented programs could be developed; maybe some special programs for autistic children; a coordinated curriculum through out the districts. Bottom line is that reorganization is the law. The state can't continue to support such a large number of units. We should think of our students. We can do this if we understand that the sum of the parts is greater than the whole. We all need to give up something for the future of our children.

Status of CSD 8 Still undecided. CSD board will meet on Wed. Aug 27, and acting superintendent David Anderson will report the results to Dan Lee.

Governance Committee report

It has been very difficult to get some information from the state. In a call Dr. Lee was able to make, it was pointed out that any alternative plan must include a willing High School. Amanda Bost reported and alternate plan would create an impossible job for a superintendent, such that finding a good candidate would be seriously jeopardized.

It was asked if Brewer would participate in an Alternate Plan. Amanda Bost, a Brewer Board member said that, informally, she believed that Brewer was not interested, and Kyle Casburn indicated that Orrington was not interested either. It is highly doubtful that any high school would accept any districts. Cal Bubar suggested that we needed to work as one family to create our plan. It was suggested that representatives consult with their local boards, but at this point it would be unwise to ask for a formal opinion with out more information. Efforts will continue to seek further information from the DOE.

Dr. McIntire said it was important to move forward with developing the RSU as the exploration of an AOS.

Finance Committee

Yvonne Mitchell reported about some financial considerations that needed to be considered about the plan for towns to lease their schools to the RSU. Considerable discussion ensued. For example, retiring local debt. If towns billed the RSU for debt payments, they might continue longer than required. What considerations are involved in large capital construction?

If towns continue to own the schools, should they need to continue maintaining the schools? It was agreed that the question of leasing needed further consideration. The RSU would have the local debt of the new Brewer K-8 school to share. The RSU would own the Brewer High School. The new K-8 school performance center would be available to all the districts. In considering the assumption of local debt, Lester Young pointed out that RSU districts would be getting the value of \$75 million dollars already paid by Brewer citizens for about 10 million of local debt to assume. Jerry Goss reported that the Brewer Trust board made a giant leap of faith to contribute Brewer property to the RSU.

Issues of leases and local debt, capital improvements, and maintenance still need to be decided. What about personal property? If the RSU is responsible for local debts, do the assets go with the building? Also, think about the rationale for not transferring personal property.

It was requested that the superintendents prepare a scenario of costs and provide a spread sheet for the planning committee.

Agenda items tabled to be considered at the Sept 11 meeting:

- Local school committees—role, members etc

- CSD 8 closure

- Review governance issues

Transition planning

Dr. McIntire explained that if the RSU plan passes in January voting, from January to June, there are many critical decisions to make such as, forming an RSU board, hiring a superintendent, preparing a budget. Rules of engagement need to be established. Members of the present planning committee can run for board seat. There is a detailed plan for developing the RSU. Copies will be available next time. Each district should have a committee member. The group must be small enough to be workable.

Meeting adjourned: 8:30 P.M.

Next meeting, September 11, 2008, 6:30 pm at Brewer High School.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Townsend

Minutes
General Meeting Proposed RSU 15
July 24, 2008
Brewer High School Cafeteria
6:30 p.m.

Call to Order: Ch. Kyle Casburn

Flag Salute

Minutes: approved

Chair recognized Carter Jones of CSD 8 who read a letter of apology to the meeting about a misstatement in a newspaper column.

State Update: Dr. McIntire

1. There is still a lot of ambiguity about penalties being applied to every member in a proposed RSU if one town doesn't approve. The matter is being discussed further the state level.
2. Representation of non-school on RSU board. The law says every town. Might Eddington and Clifton form a joint school committee?

Tasks for the evening: Committee activity to firm up some decisions.

Also, be thinking about the formation of a transition committee.

Committees adjourned to committee meetings. The report of their activity follows.

Transportation Committee

The committee recommends that all buses are to continue as they are for now until the various contracts run out. Hope to have final recommendation at the next meeting.

Curriculum Committee:

We note that all our schools and programs are very similar. These programs are reviewed and evaluated periodically for effectiveness.

We recommend the following: That,

- ✓ The core curriculum (Math, Language Arts, Science and Social studies) should be based on Maine State Learning Results and be common among the schools.
- ✓ RSU curriculum decisions are collaboratively made with each school.
- ✓ We keep all day kindergarten
- ✓ We have and/or keep preschool in each school
- ✓ Current programs in the schools should be maintained and enhanced for the benefit of all the children. Sharing personnel could make this possible.
- ✓ Quality programs be provided equally for all students.
- ✓ Student instruction should be based on prior data from assessments.
- ✓ Students should have opportunities for remediation.

- ✓ Materials be varied and creative
- ✓ Teachers use a variety of methods to enhance the many learning styles.

The committee read the mission statement from the New Casco Bay School District and would like to recommend it as a mission statement for RSU 15.

It is as follows:

The mission of this (district) is to reenergize community commitment to education and enhance the educational programs by marshalling resources wisely, creatively equitably, and cost effectively.

Our (district) will strive to:

- ✓ *bring out the best in each student's intellectual, ethical, creative and physical development;*
- ✓ *provide talented and dedicated faculty and encourage parent and community involvement, as fundamental to each student's success;*
- ✓ *provide proper facilities for academics, athletics, and the arts;*
- ✓ *ensure a safe and respectful environment where all feel a sense of belonging;*
- ✓ *value the diversity of belief and experience that each student brings, and*
- ✓ *promote in each student personal integrity, intellectual vitality, good citizenship, discipline and respect for themselves and others.*

Governance Committee

- ✓ The committee discussed bringing to the general meeting the exploration of the Alternative Organization Structure (AOS). A subcommittee is to explore that option with the DOE.
- ✓ Would like to have the communities decide whether to elect or appoint the local school advisory committees with consideration to Clifton because they do not have a school
- ✓ (appointment would be necessary)
- ✓ Will not affirm that local school committees will be advisory. General assembly to decide.

Facilities Committee

- ✓ Recommend towns leasing buildings schools to RSU for \$1.00, with the RSU responsible for maintenance. RSU must maintain buildings until they are turned back to the community.
- ✓ Brewer High School would be owned by the RSU.
- ✓ Buildings and fields leased to the RSU as part of the school property are controlled by the RSU
- ✓ Debt transfers with building leases
- ✓ Existing policies remain in effect until the new RSU board can act.
- ✓ Non-profits and recreation groups can use facilities at no charge—others may be charged for janitor time and consumables.
- ✓ Assets stay with school until replaced or leased to RSU.

lease for RSU

Finance Committee

Brewer wants to deed HS and local debt be assumed by the RSU.

K-8 facilities will be leased to the RSU, but local K-8 assets stay with the local community.

All operating leases fully assumed by RSU, assuming no additional leases between now and consolidation votes. Request gentlemen's agreement if need arises to incur new lease obligation to communicate with other districts.

Get list of leases

Personnel contracts: recommend that we review other accepted plans to develop appropriate language

List of contracts—each school committee will submit

Penalties --rework with Airline

Committees reported to large group. The suggestion was made that each group submit a candidate for next time for the transition committee.

Next meeting is August 21, 2008 at 6:30 pm at Brewer High School Cafeteria or thereabouts.

Future meetings are scheduled for September 11 and 25; October 9 and 23; November 6 and 20.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Townsend, recording secretary

Agenda
Proposed RSU 15 General Meeting
July 24, 2008
Brewer High School
(Student Services Conference Room
Enter doors to the gym, SS is on the right)

Call to order Dr. McIntire
Flag Salute

Note: The July 24th meeting agenda is designed to get committees working on specific recommendations as related to the items on the Plan Report Checklist. Committees have specific questions to address and are provided with sample wordings from those plans already approved by the DOE, which are similar in nature to our RSU. One complete copy of each of these plans will be with the secretary the night of the meeting. You may go online and read these plans by going to the department website, clicking on Reorganization heading, and scroll down to approved plans. Click on the approved RSU plans, not the Alternative plans to read the complete texts. Those plans are from New Casco Bay District, Oak Hill-Litchfield, and Hall-Dale.

Update from State Dr. McIntire
Committees working tonight: Governance, Finance, Facilities, Transportation, Curriculum.

COMMITTEE WORK: Assignments for tonight. Please have someone record any recommendations you make tonight.

Governance:

Establish terms of office according to state law: See materials provided from "20-A 1251 Terms of Office"

Decisions about local school committees:

1. Affirm that local school committees will be advisory-Prepare a definite recommendation. Decide how the advisory groups will be appointed and by whom.
2. Is Clifton-Eddington going to have a joint committee or not?

Facilities:

Work on issues of real property and personal property-legal definitions follow.

Legal Definitions are:

Real Property and Fixtures: All real property interests, including without limitation land, buildings, other improvements to realty, easements, option rights, first refusal rights, and purchase rights and all fixtures.

Personal Property All other tangible school personal property including movable equipment, furnishings, textbooks and other curriculum materials, supplies and inventories.

1. Do local municipalities want to retain ownership of their schools and lease them to the RSU for \$1 a year? If so, who is responsible for maintenance, the RSU or the

municipalities? If towns retain ownership of K-8 schools, Brewer High School should be owned by the RSU? What about use of the schools and fields? Is RSU responsible for determining that? Can existing policies continue until the new RSU can write new policy? What if schools are responsible during school year and the RSU works with local organizations during the summer? Who is liable when? Pay an attorney to work this out?

2. **Prepare a finite list of real properties**—Can be obtained from the material already collected by the committee
3. **Personal Property “anything that isn’t real estate”** Does it go to the RSU or local municipalities? Stays in the schools until replacement?
4. **Develop a cost-sharing formula**

Transportation Planning Committee

Produce a recommendation about how the RSU should handle transportation issues in the short term as well as the long term.

Finance Committee

1. How is indebtedness to be assigned?
2. How will leased purchases—buses, machines etc. be assigned? What is the future role of lease-purchase agreements in the RSU
3. How will the RSU handle personnel contracts, and labor agreements upon organization?
4. Develop a list of Contracts from each district?
5. **Penalties document**—taken from latest DOE list—enough copies are in your packet to share in general session

Some help will likely be necessary from the superintendents on these matters. Please list requests you have on your minutes.

Curriculum Committee

Make any recommendations from your survey work. Work on crafting a mission statement for the RSU.

All Committees

Return to general assembly with recommendations you have. Plan times for your committee to meet if further work should be done before the August meeting.

Organization of a Transition Committee

**General Meeting Proposed RSU 15
Dedham School, 6:30 pm
May 15, 2008**

Attendance: see attached list: Dr. McIntire had the wrong date recorded in his book and sends his apologies for missing the meeting.

Presiding: Chairman Kyle Casburn

Kyle opened the meeting and named designated committees, Governance, Finance, curriculum, and facilities to meet individually and report back.

Following committee meetings the following items were reported:

Governance

- ✓ The committee discussed the cost-sharing needs to be worked out. They recommended looking at town population for governance for cost-sharing formula. Kevin Mills noted that 60% of RPCs committees based CS on population of towns they represent. There are three possibilities for cost sharing: student population, towns, or a combination of both.
- ✓ In regard to local school committees, the committee recommended that the final plan allow for each municipality who wished to have one, to do so within the parameters provided in LD2323, to be determined by the regional board.

Facilities

The committee liked the option of towns retaining title to their school and property, and noted that the towns might lease the property to the RSU if needed for legality. Fees might be charged for the use of the properties. What is in the schools would be retained by the school.

Maintenance of the property would be the responsibility of the RSU. These issues need legal guidance to work out all the details.

Curriculum

The committee looked at their survey results and reported that there was a great deal of commonalities. They discussed the need to see that all curricula were aligned with the MLR, especially in the core subjects. It was important to meet those same rigorous standards.

Finance

Yvonne Mitchell and Lester Young had prepared a financial analysis based on 2008-2009 school budgets, for discussion only, based on 3 factors—valuation, student counts, and 50% students-50% valuation scenarios, that showed the costs per town of the 6 towns. The enclosed summary sheet reflects the 3 methods. These figures don't include savings in administration and other cost sharing.

The RPC named May 28, 2008 as next general meeting.

Please Note: An e-mail was sent by D. Lee on May 20 with the following note: After consultation with Superintendent Snell and Dr. McIntire it seems prudent to cancel the May 18th meeting. Questions were raised at the last meeting that need to be answered before moving forward, and we are all in the midst of meeting budget meetings, etc and we are awaiting further guidance from the DOE. This takes time and it doesn't seem helpful to meet just for the sake of meeting. There is an upcoming meeting by Drummond-Woodson on Consolidation: Round 2. Dr. McIntire and others will be attending these meetings. You will be notified of the next meeting time.

Respectfully,
Ruth Townsend

RSU #15
Additional Local Funds
Allocation Percentage
2008-2009

	RSU 15 Student Counts		RSU 15 Valuation		50/50
Brewer	1,384.5	43.63%	677,700,000	42.910%	43.27%
Dedham	255.0	8.04%	207,900,000	13.164%	10.60%
Orrington	593.5	18.70%	296,100,000	18.748%	18.73%
Clifton	154.5	4.87%	54,900,000	3.476%	4.17%
Eddington	319.0	10.05%	115,600,000	7.320%	8.69%
Holden	466.5	14.70%	227,150,000	14.383%	14.54%
	<u>3,173.0</u>	<u>100.00%</u>	<u>1,579,350,000</u>	<u>100.00%</u>	<u>100.00%</u>

Minutes of RSU #15 Planning Committee Meeting, June 26, 2008

Committee came to order at 6:40 pm at Brewer High School. The Chair and Secretary were absent. Following the flag salute, Albert Gibson of Brewer was nominated and elected to serve as chair and Amanda Bost was appointed to take minutes.

Public Comment- Dr. Walt McIntyre, DOE Facilitator informed us that on June 25th, facilitators met and were briefed. Two key items have been interpreted by the AG's office that would impact our deliberations. These were:

- 1) If one unit within the RSU turned down the plan, all other units within that RSU would also suffer the penalties or consequences of a failed plan, emphasizing the importance of contingency planning.

- 2) The SAD 63 vote would be collective with the majority rule for approval of RSU formation.

Several questions were posed for clarification. Members requested that future communications from Augusta of this nature be backed by statute or other written materials to lend stability to our decision-making.

Minutes were corrected by Kevin Mills to indicate that in his governance report at the last meeting he requested that a super majority of 60% vote be considered by the group, not that 60% of RPCs committees based CS on population as written in the minutes. It was determined that many members of the planning committee had not yet received or reviewed the minutes, due in part to the secretary's absence, no action could be taken.

Correspondence, none

Reports, none

Old business-The group revisited the 6 items under new business (*1.SAU's included in RSU#15, 2.Size of governing Body, 3.Composition of Governing Body, 4.Apportionment of Governing Body, 5. Method of voting of the governing body and 6. Composition of Local School Committee*) and agreed that all but #six had been voted at earlier meetings. We discussed this item briefly (power to raise external funds through supplemental municipal appropriations for example, to be used as "grants" for local schools) and a motion was made "to authorize the establishment of Local School Committees" by Karen Clark, seconded by Al Jellison. The vote was 9 yes, 4 opposed.

New Business-Following the vote to allow school committees, and after further discussion to define powers and duties it was apparent that confusion existed over the terms School Committee, School Board and Advisory Committee. The superintendents made the point that the legal requirements for each entity would differ and that a superintendent would need to attend every meeting of the local school board/committee and that the positions would be elected, not appointed. (*Edit. It would appear that the intent of the majority advocating local school committees was to allow formation of advisory committees, avoiding involvement of superintendent or need to elect members.*) Governance Committee chair was tasked with researching for next meeting.

Future Meeting Dates were approved. Next meeting is July 24 at Brewer High School, 6:30 pm.

Public Comment-Dr. McIntyre advised that once our plan takes shape, we need to have local legal review and the State DOE will impose their own legal review. Members asked how we could submit agenda items and also that items that have had closure be so noted, giving date and outcome of decisions/votes of the committee. Dr. McIntyre advised that members review existing approved RSU plans, posted on line. Meeting ended at 8:00pm.

Minutes prepared by Amanda Bost

General Meeting Proposed RSU 15
Dedham School, 6:30 pm
May 15, 2008

Attendance: see attached list: Dr. McIntire had the wrong date recorded in his book and sends his apologies for missing the meeting.

Presiding: Chairman Kyle Casburn

Kyle opened the meeting and named designated committees, Governance, Finance, curriculum, and facilities to meet individually and report back.

Following committee meetings the following items were reported:

Governance

- ✓ The committee discussed the cost-sharing needs to be worked out. They recommended looking at town population for governance for cost-sharing formula. Kevin Mills noted that 60% of RPCs committees based CS on population of towns they represent. There are three possibilities for cost sharing: student population, towns, or a combination of both. *see correction*
- ✓ In regard to local school committees, the committee recommended that the final plan allow for each municipality who wished to have one, to do so within the parameters provided in LD2323, to be determined by the regional board.

Facilities

The committee liked the option of towns retaining title to their school and property, and noted that the towns might lease the property to the RSU if needed for legality. Fees might be charged for the use of the properties. What is in the schools would be retained by the school.

Maintenance of the property would be the responsibility of the RSU. These issues need legal guidance to work out all the details.

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The committee looked at their survey results and reported that there was a great deal of commonalities. They discussed the need to see that all curricula were aligned with the MLR, especially in the core subjects. It was important to meet those same rigorous standards.

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Respectfully,
Ruth Townsend

Proposed RSU 15 General Meeting Minutes
April 29, 2008, 6:30 p.m.
Center Drive School

Attendance: see attached

Legislative Update: Dr. McIntire, facilitator

Walt McIntire presented information regarding decisions made by the recent legislative session. After much debating activity, the final bill, LD2323 retained the original legislation, plus the changes recommended by the Dept. of Education. The following items were discussed. The bill provided for:

- ✓ eliminating to 2% mil requirement
- ✓ allowing the proposed RSU to negotiate its cost-sharing process
- ✓ retaining the minimum subsidy for small towns
- ✓ clarification of the role of local school committees
- ✓ revision of penalties for not joining an RSU
- ✓ provision for alternate plans with very specific requirements
- ✓ using the budget validation referendum process this year

Walt emphasized that we now have a final law with specific timetables. The challenge is to think about putting together a long range plan for our RSU—10-15 years down the line.

He noted that population centers in Maine are generally supportive of the law. He suggested it will be the law for a long time, similar to the Sinclair Act.

He also emphasized that the legislation gives the Commissioner the authority to approve or disapprove and to impose penalties. Units who have not made decisions to join an RSU will be directed to do so shortly.

Members were given a summary of LD 2323 and Amendment G, but the full document can be downloaded from Maine Government.

Referendum dates have been extended as follows:

Dec. 15, 2008 Deadline for Reorganization Plan submission & filing wording with town clerks.

Dec. 28, 2008 deadline to sign election warrants and for absentee ballots to printer

December 29, 2008 deadline to provide approval of Reorganization plans; for delivery of election warrants to town clerks; absentee ballots to be made available

January 20, 2009 last day for public hearings

January 23, 2009 last day for public hearings

January 30, 2009 Referendum Date

Ensuing discussion focused on:

Functions of the RSU board

- a. Employment of superintendent
- b. Performance of business functions,
- c. Special education administration,
- d. Transportation,
- e. Core Curriculum,
- f. Budget,
- g. Reporting,
- h. Employment of all RSU personnel,
- i. Common school calendar,
- j. Adoption of all policies.
- k. The RSU board handles all fiscal responsibilities.

Other Issues from the Finance Committee

---Title to properties isn't really addressed and the law allows some retention of property by the municipality. A lot work and legal help is needed with this on.

Walt urged the meeting to think beyond the short-term. In this legislation, unlike the Sinclair Act, the penalties are a disincentive. Savings won't really be evident for a long time, and at best the reorganization will provide for cost containment. Note: the state's school population is estimated to decline about 15,000 a year. Districts believing they can bear the cost of the penalties should consider this also. The fact that 85% of Maine's population don't have students must be factored in also.

EPS was described as an Orwellian term since the state, this year alone, has cut the amount allotted for transportation, central office functions, and special education.

---Inquiry was made about the status of CSD 8. They have been re-invited to join Ellsworth, and representatives were present at this meeting. The Commissioner will be directing them to take some actions. RSU 15 members are anxious for them to decide quickly as there inaction is affecting the organizational work.

On the matter of referendum votes, the municipalities hold the vote. SADs and CSDs have to move as a unit.

Specific tasks the planning committee must address

Walt suggested the following:

Facilities committee—title of properties, ownership

Curriculum—finish their survey and recommendations

Finance—cost sharing formulas

Governance--RSU boards, local school advisory committees. It was suggested that if you want a local school advisory board, ask it on the local referendum. The Choice and Transportation committee members should split themselves up with these committees.

Inquiry was made to Dr. McIntire by SAD 63 if he would add Ms. Whitney's process of sending notes after the facilitator's meetings. He agreed.

Also requested was for budgets to be provided to have real numbers to work with. It was emphasized that long range cost containment was a better term to use than savings. Walt pointed out that there are three areas to save money in education: personnel & health benefits, energy, and fewer schools and that it was important to tell the truth to voters.

Walt noted that our next progress report date is June 23.

Walt wanted to schedule two meetings to get moving on the work. The first will be on Thursday, May 15, 2008 at Dedham Elementary at 6:30 p.m. The second will be on Tuesday, June 3, at Brewer High School, 6:30 p.m.

Committees held brief meetings and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Townsend

**Proposed RSU 15
General Meeting Minutes
6:30 p.m. February 24, 2008
Holbrook Middle School
Holden, ME**

Call to Order: Dr. Walter McIntire – 6:40 pm

I. Carol Whitney reviewed legislative activity – little progress to report

Report of Governance Committee – There was some confusion about the recommendation and after discussion, and chairman agreed to provide her copy for inclusion in the minutes for discussion in the March meeting.

II. Choosing referendum dates

Two timetables were presented for town's voting on proposal for RSU. One schedule called for a June vote, another for a November vote. The group unanimously agreed to the November timetable. (See wording below)

III. Presentation explaining the Essential Program and Services (EPS) funding process under current law. Hard copies will be distributed at the March meeting.

IV. Naming the RSU when it is formed. Dr. McIntire recommended the group be thinking of possible names.

V. Request was made for more financial information. It was agreed that the Finance Committee would meet at 6:00 PM prior to the March meeting.

Meeting adjourned, 8:40 pm

Motion from Governance Committee for consideration at March meeting:

“The Governance Committee recommends that local school committees be allowed and encouraged with maximum duties and powers. It is the consensus of the committee that duties and powers will not be able to be determined until all the amendments to the current law are completed.”

NOTE:

Due to scheduling conflicts and lack of decisions in the legislature the next general meeting is postponed to **APRIL 16, 2008** at 6:30 PM at Center Drive School Cafeteria.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Townsend

**Minutes of the General Meeting RSU 15
Brewer High School Auditorium
January 10, 2008 6:30 P.M.**

Call to order: Dr. McIntire

Those in attendance: attached sheet

1. Dr. McIntire explained that the seating arrangement included the 18 voting members from the six towns that submitted a plan to work together and that was approved by the Commissioner. RSU 15 must submit an updated plan by February 1, and since CSD 8 is going to decide until then, RSU needed to proceed with planning. Arrangements were made to seat CSD 8 in the audience.

Dr. McIntire also reported that the legislature is meeting is now meeting and the appropriations committee approved the bill containing changes the commissioner is suggesting which in turn reflects the concerns presented in some 64 draft bill by legislators. By that token, there are several financial issues which the bill and the legislature will address so he recommended waiting for future financial elements to work with at a later meeting.

2. On the agenda was a request from Veazie to meet with RSU 15 to discuss the possibility of joining RSU 15. Kyle Casburn RSU 15 chair appointed a committee of members to meet with him afterward to discuss that request.
3. The task for the night's meeting was to begin work on the working draft of the report due on Feb. 1. On January 8, 2008, facilitators and superintendents met for a day-long workshop with the following recommendations.

**A. The Size, Composition and Apportionment of the Governing Body,
and The Method of Voting of the Governing Board.**

The superintendents presented two models for consideration based on Option D. Discussion around the question brought forth comments about the following:

- i. Could we have a smaller size board?
- ii. If we did, could community members serve on committees?
- iii. Only RSU Board will have any power.
- iv. The least disparity of power possible among the towns is most desirable.
- v. With 15 member board, each town will end up with voting power in proportion to its population.

On a formal vote, it was agreed by a 13 to 5 vote that the 15 member board version was approved as it provided the most equitable distribution of voting power in relation to the population of the member towns. That version is attached to these minutes for the record.

2. The meeting moved on to consideration of the question of local school boards.

The superintendents recommended that there be no local school committees. There was sentiment among several members for some form of local control. It was pointed out that local school committees would have no power and would function more like PTG or advisors.

The Drummond-Woodsun document notes that regional school boards may establish local school committees and specify their powers and duties in accordance with *20-A M.S.R.A. 1478*. But it also notes that there are legal questions around that issue that remain to be resolved and legal counsel should be consulted.

After discussion, it was agreed that there would be no decision tonight and that the governance committee would convene before the next meeting to clarify the issue.

3. Financial issues.

In light of pending legislation that would allow RSU's to be creative in allocating costs, Dr McIntire recommended that the RSU wait until legislation clarifies the situation. It was noted that cost sharing is based on per pupil basis, similar to the board allocation.

It was noted that few believe there will be short-term cost savings and that there may or may not be some long-term savings. Information about the penalties for not joining the RSU would be forthcoming. It is difficult to give any answers at this point.

On the **question of disposition of property**, the facilities committee requested that discussion be postponed until they completed some information gathering in preparation for the next meeting.

The Next Meeting will be January 30, 2008 at Holbrook Middle School at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Townsend

Attachments: attendance
Voting version

Attendance RSU 15 General Meeting Jan. 10, 2008, Brewer, Me.

Eligible Voting Members

Brewer

Gail Kelly, Albert Gibson, Amanda Bost

Eddington

Ralph Russell, Therese Anderson, Charles Baker

Clifton

Penny Peasley, D.Eric John, Linda Goodrich.

Holden

Karen Clark, alt. Holden board, Joel Swanton, Kevin Mills.

Dedham

Alfred Jellison, Sue Rocha, Karen Jellison

Orrington

Kyle Casburn, John Mugnai, Kathy Lawrence, alt.

Also: Superintendents Lee, Snell, Yvonne Mitchell for Regan; Facilitators McIntire and Whitney, Ruth Townsend, representatives from CSD 8

Minutes of Proposed RSU 15 Meeting
November 19, 2007
Center Drive School Orrington
6:30 pm

Attendance attached and listed by community elected delegates present.

Meeting convened at 6:40 pm by Dr. McIntire, facilitator. He was joined by SAD 63 coordinator, Carol Whitney, as co-facilitator. Dr. McIntire clarified that persons eligible to vote would be the three elected members of each town, with alternates voting in the absence of a regular member.

The meeting was held to vote on each item of the Reorganization Plan required by December 1. The superintendents met on Nov. 15th and prepared a tentative report for members to consider. Dr. McIntire facilitated an item by item vote on the report. It was noted that much progress had not been made because of the delay of CSD 8 communities making a final decision about which RSU they would join.

The final report approved by official delegates vote is attached. The report was sent November 30, 2007 by FAX to the Department of Education. With two cover sheets attached, one including CSD 8 along with their notice of intent to delay their decision, and one not including CSD 8.

Following the voting process the RSU planning committee elected Kyle Casburn, Orrington as the RPC Chairman.

Dr. McIntire reviewed the following deadlines: December 1, 2007 plan due to state and the Commissioner's response received by December 15, 2007. An update must follow every 30 days the plan must be ready for local referendum by Nov. 4, 2008.

Dr. McIntire also informed the district of bills submitted for consideration by the legislature in January. None were accepted. Rather the DOE will make recommended refinements to the Education Committee for submission. The Appropriations Committee will look to clear up some of the financial issues.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15. The next meeting will be held January 10, 2008 at 6:30 pm at Brewer High School.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Townsend, Recorder.

* - present and voting Nov. 27

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ROLE</u>	<u>ADDRESS (Street, Town, Zip)</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
<u>SAD #63 - Holden</u>			
Sirois, Pat *	Board	PO Box 176, Holden 04429	843-5518
Mills, Kevin *	Community	182 Clark Hill Rd., Holden 04429	843-0808
Swanton, Joel	Town Official	35 Skyline Drive, Holden 04429	
Varnum, Don (Alt.)	Board	PO Box 61, Kidder Rd., Holden 04429	
Fogg, Peter (Alt.)	Community	16 Stonegate Drive, Holden 04429	
Amoroso, Paul (Alt.)	Town Official	655 Wiswell Road, Holden 04429	989-1638
<u>SAD #63 - Eddington</u>			
Anderson, Therese *	Board	678 Riverside Drive, Eddington 04428	989-9611
Russell, Ralph *	Community	1146 Main Road, Eddington 04428	843-5540
Baker, Charlie	Town Official	710 Main Road, Eddington 04428	
Clark, Karen (Alt.)	Board		
Smith, Russell (Alt.) *	Community		
Glass, Brian (Alt.)	Town Official		
<u>SAD #63 - Clifton</u>			
Goodrich, Linda	Board	212 Bobcat Road, Clifton 04428	843-6842
Johns, Eric *	Community	220 Scott Point Road, Clifton 04428	
Peasley, Penny *	Town Official		
Clark, Karen (Alt.) *	Board		
		(Edd. & Clift.)	
<u>ORRINGTON</u>			
Casburn, Kyle	Board	375 Johnson Mill Road, Orrington 04474	825-3855
Lavoie, Christine	Town Official	289 Center Drive, Orrington 04474	825-3245
Mugnai, John *	Community	248 Swetts Pond Road, Orrington 04474	825-3304
LAURENCE, Kathy Alt. *	BOARD		
<u>BREWER</u>			
Bost, Amanda. *	Board	75 Wintergreen Way, Brewer 04412	989-4421
Kelly, Gail *	Town Official	20 South Road, Brewer 04412	
Gibson, Al	Community	587 Eastern Ave., Brewer 04412	989-7171
Bubar, Cal (Alt.) *	Board	27 Lincoln St., Brewer 04412	989-5362

DEDHAM

Rocha, Sue *
Jellison, Karen
Jellison, Al
Kelshaw, Kristina (Alt.) *
Lawrence, Everett (Alt.) *
Jarvis, Bethany (Alt.) *

Town Official
Community
Town Official
Board
Community
Board
PO Box 147, Holden 04429
109 Johnson Road, Dedham 04429
109 Johnson Road, Dedham 04429
432 Bald Mountain Road, Dedham 04429
93 Adams Lane, Dedham 04429
2072 Mann Hill Road, Dedham 04429

843-6094
843-5075
843-5075

AMHERST

Aleksiewicz, Donna *
McIntosh, Tyler
Deckers, Phil
Achorn, Bret (Alt.)

Community
Board
Town Official
5 South Perry Lane, Amherst 04605
3848 Mariaville Road, Amherst 04605
19 Deckers Lane, Amherst 04605
28 Tannery Loop Road, Amherst 04605

584-2681
584-3888
584-5794
584-5056

AURORA

DeLuca, Daniel
Lacerda, Joe *
Sheehan, Mo
Cote, Michele (Alt.) *

80 Giles Pond Road, PO Box 119, Aurora 04408
PO Box 82, Aurora 04408
16 Old Airline Road, PO Box 95, Aurora 04408
14 Spruce Mountain Lane, Aurora 04408

479-4474 (cell)
592-3502
584-3181
584-5106

GREAT POND

Hutchinson, Tedi *
Hutchinson, Les *
Luck, Norman

Community
Board
Town Official
PO Box 44, Great Pond 04408
PO Box 44, Great Pond 04408
18 Long Pond Road, Great Pond 04408

584-2324
584-2324
584-2355

OSBORN

Jordan, Ralph
Vacant
Vacant
Sawyer, Sylvia (Alt.)

Community
Board
Town Official
Community
179 Moosehill Road, Osborn 04605
182 Moosehill Road, Osborn 04605

584-5017

Others in Attendance November 19, 2007

Walter McIntire, facilitator

Carol Whitney, co-facilitator

Louise Regan, SAD 63 and CSD 8 Supt.

Allan Snell, Orrington, Supt.

Yvonne Mitchell, Business manager SAD 63 and SD 8

Lester Young, Brewer, Business Manager

Kevin Hanscom, Orrington, Board

Stephanie Lash, Orrington citizen

Clare Payne, Holden, Citizen

Ruth Townsend, Recorder

Minutes of Proposed RSU 15 Planning Meeting
November 7, 2007, 6:30 p. m.
Airline School, Aurora

Members from Orrington, Brewer, and SAD 63 traveled by school bus to Aurora to get an understanding of the distance CSD 8 students would have to travel. The bus was a little late so the meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. by Dr. McIntire, facilitator.

Dr. McIntire opened the meeting with a reminder of the upcoming deadline of December 1, 2007. By then each town or district must submit a report on plan progress for their RSU unit. Only one plan per unit is allowed. After the December 1 filing, school units signing on to the filing of the proposed RSU unit plan may not withdraw from that plan. Each school board must approve the submittal of the RSU plan, not the plan itself. Boards would be approving the submittal of the plan only.

Dr. McIntire brought update information to the group. The Appropriations Committee of the legislature will hold hearings in December for the clarification of financial aspects of the reorganization law on such things as the 2 mill requirement, addressing cost sharing, a phase model for finances over a 2-3 year period, and other items.

Additionally, the Education Committee will meet to hear from legislators whose legislative submissions were refused. It was not clear whether any public hearings would be held in conjunction with this process.

Copies of the Draft Reorganization Plan were distributed.

Room assignments for committees were given and committees went into work sessions to report back to the larger group about 8:00 p.m.

Committees were asked to report their activities on the provided template. Those notes have been typed up and are contained in this report.

Several members of the public were in attendance. They were invited to be observers of the various committees as they met.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Choice Sub-Committee: Identified Chair: Linda Goodrich

The committee discussed the importance of choice, costs associated with it and how it is paid for, and transportation to high schools (Bapst). The committee wished to continue meeting.

Governance, Mission, Philosophy Sub-committee Identified Chair: An elected RSU member not yet identified.

Topics Discussed:

The committee:

- ✓ had extensive conversation regarding governance (Type of voting options and representation) and reached no agreement.
- ✓ recommended "in progress" in all government areas.
- ✓ expressed a need for community input on voting options
- ✓ some expressed a wish to keep local school committees
- ✓ expressed general dissatisfaction with the reorganizing law

Transportation Sub-committee: Identified Chair: Ralph Russell

Topics:

Discussed salaries for bus drivers

Still need some bus route data

Discussed maintenance--how to continue with owned buses. SAD 63 to be asked what can be done at garage and what is sent out for repairs.

What will happen with snow plowing for turnarounds if the towns do it now?

Look at hiring a transportation manager and cooperative buying agency for school owned buses.

Ralph presented a draft reorganization transportation plan.

Finance Sub-committee Identified Chair: Al Jellison

The committee reviewed to plan template provided by the state. Details on attached spread sheet. Asked that template be included as part of the minutes.

In Large session: Committee report-outs. Group agreed to submit an incomplete plan. If approved by the Commissioner, Dr. McIntire pointed out that progress had to be reported again within 30 days.

Group agreed one more meeting was necessary before the Dec. 1 deadline. The meeting Will be Monday, November 19, 6:30 p.m. and Center Drive School, Orrington.

Respectfully submitted,

Committee note takers and Ruth Townsend

Facilities

1. Property
 - a. Buildings – insured value
 - b. Deeds
 - c. Property cards
 - d. Tax maps
 - e. Site map
 - f. Floor plans
 - g. Other
2. Contents
 - a. Kitchen
 - b. Computers/technology
 - c. Other
3. Contracts
 - a. Service – technology
 - b. Sanding/plowing
 - c. Other
4. Debt
 - a. Loans
 - b. Leases
 - c. liens
 - d. Other
5. Environmental Issues
 - a. Lead
 - b. Asbestos
 - c. Pesticide/herbicide use
 - d. Universal waste
6. Pending Issues
 - a. Repairs
 - b. Debt
 - c. other
7. Staffing Expectations
 - a. Kitchen
 - b. Custodial
 - c.
8. Other Items

Financial Template - Step by Step

Date request received: 8/28/2007

Date request completed:

Step 3 Determine new Regional EPS Allocations (Step 1 distributed by percentage of pupils in Step 2):

	Percentage of Pupils (from Step 2)	RSU Allocations Total Operating & Other Subs. Alloc. from Step 1 times % of pupils
BREWER	41.67%	11,143,378
DEDHAM	7.87%	2,104,593
ORRINGTON	18.12%	4,845,845
SAD #63	5.01%	1,339,773
SAD #63	10.31%	2,757,097
SAD #63	14.96%	4,000,598
AIRLINE CSD	0.72%	192,542
AIRLINE CSD	0.78%	208,587
AIRLINE CSD	0.30%	80,226
AIRLINE CSD	0.26%	69,529
New RSU Oper. & Othr Subs. Alloc. =	100.00%	26,741,968

Step 4 Determine assignment of Debt Service Allocations:

A. Units with Debt Service	Debt Service
BREWER	ED 281 Line 48
DEDHAM	65,408
ORRINGTON	7,528
SAD #63	549,542
AIRLINE CSD	245,778
New RSU Debt Service Allocation =	6,497
	874,753

IVF

P&I and IVF
IVF

B. Distribute SAD or CSD Debt Service Allocations:

	Percentage within SAD/CSD (from Step 2)	RSU Allocations Debt Service (from Step 4 A.)
BREWER		65,408
DEDHAM		7,528
ORRINGTON		549,542
SAD #63	16.53%	40,627
SAD #63	34.07%	83,737
SAD #63	49.40%	121,415
AIRLINE CSD	34.56%	2,245
AIRLINE CSD	37.50%	2,436
AIRLINE CSD	14.71%	956
AIRLINE CSD	13.23%	860
New RSU Debt Service Allocation =		874,753

Financial Template - Step by Step

Date request received: 8/28/2007

Step 7 Calculate maximum local contribution:

	2006 State		But not great than RSU Allocations Total (from Step 5)	Equals		Percentage of Local Contribution	Adjusted Required Local Contribution		Equals Required Local Mill Rate	Adjusted Percentage of Local Contribution
	Valuation Times Mill Expectation (from Step 6)	4,638,468		Required Local Contribution	Rate		Local	Contribution		
BREWER	1,313,532	2,112,121	11,208,786	4,638,468	7.44	41.55%	4,638,468	4,638,468	7.44	41.55%
DEDHAM	2,034,468	5,395,187	2,112,121	1,313,532	7.44	11.77%	1,313,532	1,313,532	7.44	11.77%
ORRINGTON	388,368	1,380,400	5,395,187	2,034,468	7.44	18.22%	2,034,468	2,034,468	7.44	18.22%
SAD #63	849,276	2,840,834	1,380,400	388,368	7.44	3.48%	388,368	388,368	7.44	3.48%
SAD #63	1,548,264	4,122,013	2,840,834	849,276	7.44	7.61%	849,276	849,276	7.44	7.61%
AIRLINE CSD	136,524	194,787	4,122,013	1,548,264	7.44	13.87%	1,548,264	1,548,264	7.44	13.87%
AIRLINE CSD	103,788	211,024	194,787	136,524	7.44	1.22%	136,524	136,524	7.44	1.22%
AIRLINE CSD	120,156	81,182	211,024	103,788	7.44	0.93%	103,788	103,788	7.44	0.93%
AIRLINE CSD	74,772	70,389	81,182	81,182	5.03	0.73%	81,182	81,182	5.03	0.73%
New RSU	11,207,616	27,616,722	70,389	70,389	7.00	0.62%	70,389	70,389	7.00	0.62%
				11,164,258	7.41	100.00%	11,164,258	11,164,258	7.41	100.00%

Step 8 Calculate State contribution:

RSU Allocations Total (Step 5)	27,616,722
Less Local Contribution (Step 7)	11,164,258
Equal State Contribution	16,452,464
Adjusted Min. Spec. Ed.	0
Adjusted State Contribution	16,452,464

Step 9

A. Adjust Local contribution for Minimum Spec. Ed. and Debt Service Adjustments:

	(1) Percentage of Local Contribution (Step 7)	(2) Distribution of Min. Spec. Ed. Adjustment (Step 8)	(3) Adjusted Required Local Contribution (Step 7)	(4) Adjusted Required Local Contribution (Col. 4 less Cols. 2 and 3)
BREWER	41.55%	0	4,638,468	4,638,468
DEDHAM	11.77%	0	1,313,532	1,313,532
ORRINGTON	18.22%	0	2,034,468	2,034,468
SAD #63	3.48%	0	388,368	388,368
SAD #63	7.61%	0	849,276	849,276
SAD #63	13.87%	0	1,548,264	1,548,264
AIRLINE CSD	1.22%	0	136,524	136,524
AIRLINE CSD	0.93%	0	103,788	103,788
AIRLINE CSD	0.73%	0	81,182	81,182
AIRLINE CSD	0.62%	0	70,389	70,389
New RSU	100.00%	0	11,164,258	11,164,258

Financial Template - Step by Step

Date request received: 8/28/2007

Date request completed:

Comparisons of Local Contributions:

	(7) TOTAL RSU	FY '2008 Actuals	Difference
BREWER	Local Shares		
DEDHAM	5,743,117	5,311,664	431,453
ORRINGTON	1,704,587	1,906,759	(202,172)
SAD #63	2,291,177	2,627,523	(336,346)
SAD #63	497,886	491,869	6,017
SAD #63	1,088,335	1,075,620	12,715
AIRLINE CSD	1,989,899	1,960,895	28,994
AIRLINE CSD	178,983	157,065	21,918
AIRLINE CSD	137,977	119,403	18,574
AIRLINE CSD	107,811	109,289	(1,478)
AIRLINE CSD	91,933	86,022	5,911
New RSU =	13,831,696	13,846,109	(14,413)

EPS Relationship:

	SAU	100% EPS Allocation	Total Required and Additional Local & State Subsidy*	Amount Over (Under) EPS	Percentage Over (Under) EPS
Brewer		12,238,686	12,425,652	186,867	1.53%
Dedham		2,215,393	2,725,484	510,091	23.02%
Orrington		5,324,744	5,718,042	393,298	7.39%
SAD #63		8,314,271	8,729,539	415,268	4.99%
Airline CSD		643,540	685,543	42,003	6.53%
		28,736,634	30,284,160	1,547,526	5.39%

*From ED281 Line 50 -- does not include adjustments such as transition adjustment, 3% Limitation adjustment, etc.

There ARE 2 Cover sheets FOR RSU 15 - 1 with ESD 8
+ 1 without

REORGANIZATION PLAN SUBMITTAL SHEET

(Each municipality in a School Union must be indicated separately.)

School Administrative Units Included in APPROVED Notice of Intent	School Administrative Units Submitting Reorganization Plan
Brewer School Department	Brewer School Department
Dedham School Department	Dedham School Department
Orrington School Department	Orrington School Department
SAD #63 (Clifton, Holden, Eddington)	SAD #63 (Clifton, Holden, Eddington)
CSD #8 (Aurora, Amherst, Great Pond, Osborn)	CSD #8 (Aurora, Amherst, Great Pond, Osborn) *
	PLEASE enclosed Letter
	FROM CSD 8
the plan included was voted upon by all parties	

Contact Information:

RPC Chair

Name: Kyle Casburn

Address: 375 Johnson Mill Road

Orrington, ME 04474

Telephone: 825-3855

email: _____

ON Monday Nov.

Date Plan Submitted: November 30, 2007

Proposed RSU Operational Date: July, 2009

Reorganization Plan Cover Sheet

(Please attach Reorganization Plan as Exhibit A)

Required Elements							
Law Reference Item Number Sub- Chapter 2	Item	N/A	Complete	In Progress	Not Yet Started	Identified Barrier ¹	Need Assistance ²
3.A(1)	SAUs included in RSU		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.A(2)	Size of governing body		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Composition of governing body		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Apportionment of governing body		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.A(3)	Method of voting of the governing body		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.A(4)	Composition of local school committees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Powers of local school committees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Duties of local school committees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.A(5)	Disposition of real & personal school property		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.A(6)	Disposition of existing school indebtedness (if not using provisions of section 1506)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disposition of lease-purchase obligations (if not using provisions of section 1506)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.A(7)	Assignment of school personnel contracts		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Assignment of school collective bargaining agreements		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Assignment of other school contractual obligations		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.A(8)	Disposition of existing school funds and existing financial obligations		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.A(9)	Transition plan that addresses the development of a budget for the first school year		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Transition plan that addresses interim personnel policies		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.A(10)	Documentation of the public meeting(s) held to prepare or review reorganization plan		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.A(11)	Explanation of how units that approve reorganization plan will proceed if one or more units do not approve the plan		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.A(12)	Estimate of cost savings to be achieved		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.A(13)	Such other matters as the governing bodies of the school administrative units in existence on the effective date of this chapter may determine to be necessary		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

¹ Please explain why this is a barrier and what assistance you need to remove this barrier on the next page.

² Please explain what assistance you need to complete this portion of your plan, and state from whom you need assistance, on page 3.

Minutes of Proposed RSU 15 Planning Meeting
October 11, 2007, 7 p. m.
Dedham School

Meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Dr. McIntire, facilitator. Dr. McIntire opened the meeting with a reminder of the upcoming deadline of December 1, 2007. Districts would need to work diligently to meet it and decisions about formation of RSU 15 needed to be made.

Rooms for sub-committees were designated. Members adjourned to committee meeting rooms at 7:15 and were asked to return to the large group at 8:15 p.m.

Committees were asked to report their activities on the provided template. Those notes have been typed up and are contained in this report.

Several members of the public were in attendance. They were invited to be observers of the various committees as they met.

Choice Sub-committee: Identified Chair: Linda Goodrich, Clifton
Members attending: Trish Ortiz, Orrington; Ralph Jordan, Osborn; Linda Goodrich, Clifton. Diana Brangwyme, citizen observer.

Chairman Ortiz presented the answers she received from the Commissioner in regards to the questions the committee had asked at the last meeting. That e-mail is attached to the minutes. Dr. McIntire also met with the committee assuring them that choice would remain for those districts currently having choice; that the RSU could not end choice, and that choice could only be eliminated by action of the Maine Legislature.

The committee agreed to continue meeting. They asked the question that if we join the curriculum committee would they be observers or voting members.

Curriculum Sub-committee: Identified chair: Sue Rocha, Dedham; note taker: Gayle Davis.

Members present: Gayle Davis, Orrington; Michelle Cote, Aurora; John Mugnai, Orrington; Sue Rocha, Dedham; Pat Sirois, Holden. Karen Clark, Eddington; Lisa Jordan, Osborn?; Kathleen Kazmiejek.

Topics discussed:

The chair and secretary had prepared a survey to inventory programs in the various districts. The committee studied this and made suggestions and added items they wanted to see included. The final version would be prepared and sent to school principals with the request to return in time for the Oct. 23 meeting.

Topics for next time: compile the information received from the survey.

Members present: Everett Lawrence, Orrington; Ralph Russell, Eddington; Kevin Hanscom, Orrington. Donna Aleksiewicz, Amherst; Jerry Goss, Brewer; Russell Smith, alt.; Joe Lacerda, Aurora.

Topics:

- ✓ Should RSU have one person to oversee facilities and transportation?
- ✓ Brewer feels its more economical to contract buses for Brewer.
- ✓ The committee will look into what information is available regarding the feasibility of owning versus contracting services.
- ✓ The transportation committee will recommend hiring a transportation director. The committee is to only gather data and present information to the new RSU Board.
- ✓ The committee will recommend that transportation to continue with current transportation means and the decision regarding owning or contracting will be determined by the new transportation director and RSU board.

Next time: will build a spread sheet to compile data for next meeting. Sub-committees returned to the large group at 8:30 and reported above activities. Dr. McIntire allowed for public comments. Meeting adjourned 9:00 p.m.

Please note: The meeting scheduled for Aug. 23 has been postponed to Wednesday, November 7, 6:30 p.m. at Aurora School.

Respectfully submitted,

Committee note takers and Ruth Townsend

Minutes of Proposed RSU 15 Planning Meeting
September 13, 2007, 7 p. m.
Holbrook Middle School

Meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Dr. McIntire, facilitator. He announced units who submitted plans to form RSU 15 had been approved. K-8 initiative was not approved, and units who submitted more than one plan would have to decide by September 30. The state would assist that process. Dr. McIntire noted that the Sept. 30 deadline was not a drop dead date but the pressure is on to make a decision by then.

Dr. McIntire briefly reviewed the job assignments for each committee which were provided every member in attendance in addition to a list of committee members. He reminded committees that a large part of their task was inventory of needed information. By December 1, 2007, the unit was to have a plan for transition to the RSU. Rooms for sub-committees were designated. Members adjourned to committee meeting rooms at 7:20 and were asked to return to the large group at 8:30 p.m.

Committees were asked to designate a note taker and report their activities on the provided template. Those notes have been typed up and are contained in this report.

Choice Sub-committee: Identified Chair: Linda Goodrich, Clifton

Members attending: Trish Ortiz, Orrington; Sylvia Sawyer, Osborn; Linda Goodrich, Clifton.

After reviewing committee role and expressing feelings about school choice the committee reported the following:

1. Questions for the Commissioner:
 - Are students currently in choice districts grandfather in?
 - Will choice include public schools in other RSU districts or just private schools?
 - Can Brewer students have choice?
 - Can choice be for primary or middle schools?
2. Information needed:
 - From transportation: Will buses still run to both public and choice schools?
 - Need school population for voting numbers (*is this for governance committee*)?
1. Need to consider size related to student comfort with high school size.
2. Question: Cost accounting: parents funding difference between public school funding and tuition of choice school—towns will vote, if one town chooses not to fund extra tuition will choice be taken from those children?
3. Will there be a quota given to choice committees to public school?

4. Can Brewer High School provide a complete education for all students? *Dr. McIntire said Brewer High School can accommodate all public school students with a full program.*
7. Found out that school board cannot vote to end school choice. It can only be changed by legislation.

Needed information: Answers to questions above.

Curriculum Sub-committee: Identified chair: Sue Rocha, Dedham; note taker: Gayle Davis

Members present: Gayle Davis, Orrington; Michelle Cote, Aurora; Roy Allen, Orrington subbing for John Mugnai; Sue Rocha, Dedham; Karen Clark subbing for Pat Sirois, Holden. Louise Regan sat in.

Topics discussed:

- ✓ How to gather information
 - ✓ What to compare—resources; programs
 - ✓ No to costs being presented
 - ✓ No to comparison of test scores
 - ✓ No to private school comparisons

 - ✓ **Information needed?**
 - ✓ Does RSU board want John Bapst curriculum compared?
 - ✓ Written curriculum from each school for each level (pre-K-12 and special ed.)?
 - ✓ (not necessary at this time. Full RSU board can decide about curriculum review).
Each district must follow Maine Learning Results.
 - ✓ Find out each school's curricular activities; after school programs,
 - ✓ Should gather information regarding district assessments used to improve curriculum other than MEAs (ex. Observation survey, DRA, writing prompts, etc.
 - ✓ How is this information used to guide curriculum?
 - ✓ Is there a process for regular curriculum review as required by the state?
 - ✓ Gather info about staff resources (foreign language, counselors, Title I staff, aides, etc.
 - ✓ Info about texts, or programs used (Math, reading, Writing, etc.

 - ✓ Inventory the information from each town.

 - ✓ Need a representative from Brewer!
-

Facilities Sub-committee: Identified Chair: Therese Anderson

Members present: Therese Anderson, Cal Bubar, Jerry Goss

Topics or issues discussed:

- ✓ Brewer: What happens to trustees? Brewer has new pk-8 school building in the works (2010); Brewer High School renovations loan
- ✓ All districts: land and trust ownership issues: survey condition of buildings as of (2009) and at present. SAD 63 has loan for a Holbrook renovation.
- ✓ Brewer can handle all of the High School students from the district

Information needed:

- ✓ Insured value of each facility; pending major repairs such as roof; septic/sewer; water;
- ✓ Boilers; mold/asbestos/ pesticides/lead problems
- ✓ Inventory (non-transportation related equipment
- ✓ Other leases and contracts

Recommended action:

Independent assessment of all properties (cost?)

Finance Sub-committee Identified Chair: Al Jellison; note taker: Eric Johns

Members present: Les Hutchinson, Al Jellison, Amanda Bost, Eric Johns.

Yvonne Mitchell, Technical Consultant, Supt. Lee, resource

Reviewed DOE Template

DOE indicates financial reports will not return for 3-4 weeks due to format/content non-compliance issues

Jim Rier will bring results back to the group and explain them: For example some positions are billed under one expense code in some districts and alternate codes in other districts

Impact: increase in teacher salaries in surrounding communities is about \$1 million. Brewer's share is 41%. The surrounding communities make up the difference.

Staffing of Central office: Whom do you need? What do you need?

Next meeting will build organizational charts unconstrained for resources. Then have business managers review the costs and other needs

Then prioritize and revise.

Teacher Contracts: How are they negotiated? What time periods? Benefits packages-how will we integrate? Healthcare: all have the same plan currently.

Cost breakdown by communities + or - 3%

Brewer 40%; Orrington 18%; Holden 14%; Eddington 8%; Dedham 12%; Clifton 4%; CSD 4%.

Penalties for non-participation; Brewer could lose construction projects; SAD/CSD etc. could lose substantial dollars. Yvonne will calculate actual costs next time.

Review political impact of choice on municipal budgets. Group has to understand the future formula better. Group does not fully understand exact impact.

Information needed:

Debt information from each group; contract info (two meetings from now)

Organizational chart ideas

Topics for next time: Organizational chart for central office; Review DOE template on our own.

Sub-committee: Governance/Mission/Philosophy: Identified Co-Chairs: Beth Jarvis, Dedham and Mo Sheehan, CSD 8

Members present: Albert Gibson, Brewer; Gail Kelly, Brewer; Stephanie Lash, Orrington; Bethany Jarvis, alt., Dedham; Joel Swenton, Holden; Kevin Mills, Holden; Mo Sheehan, CSD 8; Allen Snell, supt. (resource)

All need copy of statute, time to read it; identify applicable sections—Members will download on their own. Develop questions, information needs

Need map of RSU towns; town population and # of students K-8; 9-12. Allan Snell will provide.

Geographic concerns: Concern that K-8 students from outlying communities (airline) will eventually be forced to travel long distances if local school is closed. Community schools provide small town identities.

Governance needs to recognize community differences and maintain autonomy for communities.

Governance needs to address concerns that some communities may have higher costs as a result of new structures.

Committee should review Bath/Brunswick model (LD910) as an example.

Members attending Sept. 25 Drummond-Woodson session in Bangor will bring pertinent material back to the committee.

There was concern over impacts on choice, costs to communities. Will state stop funding insured value factor?

Transportation Sub-committee Chair: Ralph Russell; note taker: Chris Lavoie

Members present: Christine Lavoie, Orrington; Everett Lawrence, Orrington; Ralph Russell, Eddington; Kevin Hanscom, Orrington.

Topics:

Review how to find out costs per student per mile. Ask superintendents for numbers. Check on-line for numbers and with Harvey Boardman for numbers. Kevin H. will check.

Ralph will collect all policies from schools. Cost per mile for Orrington Kevin already has. Kevin will get policies for Orrington and Ralph will get rest.

Check on age of all buses and contract renewals.

Check fuel contracts.

Check about Special Education buses and routes.

Check about school bus drive policies.

Ralph will contact two missing members.

Topics for next time: Go over all data and compile it. Maybe set up extra meetings for committee. Go over how to put it all in order.

Sub-committees returned to the large group at 8:30 and reported above activities. Dr. McIntire allowed for public comments. Meeting adjourned 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Committee note takers and Ruth Townsend.

EXCERPT SENT AT DR. McINTIRE'S REQUEST

PUBLIC Law, Chapter 240, 123rd Maine State Legislature
An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds, and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2007, June 30, 2008 and June 30, 2009

4. Submission of plans. By December 1, 2007, each school administrative unit shall submit to the Commissioner of Education either:

- A. Its proposed reorganization plan for consolidation into a regional school unit that meets the requirements of subsections 5 and 6; or
- B. Its proposed plans for reducing the cost of services within the school administrative unit to meet the requirements of subsection 6, paragraph F.

Each school administrative unit shall exercise due diligence and act in good faith in developing a plan that meets the requirements of this Part and furthers the intent of the Legislature to achieve sustainable, long-term administrative efficiencies.

5. Content. A reorganization plan must include:

- A. The units of school administration to be included in the proposed regional school unit;
- B. The size, composition and apportionment of the governing body;
- C. The method of voting of the governing body;
- D. The composition, powers and duties of any local school committees to be created;
- E. The disposition of real and personal school property;
- F. The disposition of existing school indebtedness and lease-purchase obligations if the parties elect not to use the provisions of section 1506 regarding the disposition of debt obligations;
- G. The assignment of school personnel contracts, school collective bargaining agreements and other school contractual obligations;
- H. The disposition of existing school funds and existing financial obligations, including undesignated fund balances, trust funds, reserve funds and other funds appropriated for school purposes;
- I. A transition plan that addresses the development of a budget for the first school year of the reorganized unit and interim personnel policies;
- J. Documentation of the public meeting or public meetings held to prepare or review the reorganization plan;
- K. An explanation of how units that approve the reorganization plan will proceed if one or more of the proposed members of the regional school unit fail to approve the plan;
- L. An estimate of the cost savings to be achieved through formation of a regional school unit and how costs will be reduced; and
- M. Such other matters as the governing bodies of the school administrative units in existence on the effective date of this Part may determine to be necessary.

**Minutes of the Second Organizational Meeting
For Proposed Regional School Unit 15
August 23, 2007
Brewer High School Cafeteria, Brewer**

Members of the following towns and districts were invited to attend this meeting organized by the Superintendents of Brewer, Orrington, SAD 63/CSD 8, and Dedham. Towns included are Brewer, Dedham, Clifton, Eddington, Orrington, Holden, Amherst, Aurora, Great Pond, and Osborn.

The meeting convened at 7:00 PM opened by Dr. Walter McIntire, who will facilitate the RSU 15 Organization process.

Attendance: Official attendance of the various representatives to the planning committee is included in the attached list.

Welcome

Dr. McIntire welcomed those present and then reviewed the timeline and deadlines that make it urgent for the organizational work to begin. He described his role as one of helping to move the process along. He commented on and suggested the following.

1. Municipalities play a key role in this process and the pressure is on them to get underway.
2. The timetable is daunting
3. There are significant decisions to be made
4. He suggested the big group might form smaller committees to plan for specific areas
5. He felt it would be best if one representative from each smaller committee be elected chairman of that group and then those chairs would name a chair of the total group.
6. The intent of the law is municipally driven—each municipality makes a decision to join or not
7. Serious financial penalties will impact the municipalities who don't join a restructuring group
8. He reviewed the timetable for the group's efforts, the first being an Aug. 31, 2007 deadline for sending a letter of intent to the Commissioner declaring what groups towns/districts would work with. By December 1, 2007, the regional group must submit a plan for reorganization to the Commissioner for approval, which would be followed by municipal referendum to be held Jan. 15., if the group has progressed to that point
9. Following the acceptance of a plan, a new regional school board would be formed and begin the decision-making process.
10. Following that process the RSU board can have up to July 2009 to be operational.

Representative concerns:

Dr. McIntire then called for representatives in attendance to introduce themselves in order and in one sentence cite a problem or advantage in relation to mandated law. Representatives spoke mostly of concerns which are reflected in the following:

- ✓ Small towns are fearful of losing their schools
- ✓ They want to be treated fairly
- ✓ What type of governance? 1 vote type so a town or community are not outweighed by others
- ✓ Fairness for the citizens of Brewer
- ✓ Sympathetic to the small towns
- ✓ Good communication of the process to local citizens
- ✓ Financial fairness and equity
- ✓ Maintain quality education; make sure good education is not damaged; support citizen views
- ✓ School Choice maintained

- ✓ Concern for loss of local board identity
- ✓ What happens to assets held by local schools and towns
- ✓ Space for HS students at Brewer

Several members indicated a need for:

- ✓ Good listening;
- ✓ Working together to achieve high quality as an RSU
- ✓ Establish a good process to work together well

Required Elements of the Plan

Dr. McIntire then reviewed the required elements of the reorganization plan:

1. Defining what towns and districts are included
2. The size and composition of a board, voting options; method of voting
3. Local school committee to deal with local school
4. A.) disposition of real property assets, b.) indebtedness, c) contracts, d) bargaining, e) financial issues, trusts, etc. f) budgets
5. Entire process must be documented
6. What to do if one or more members votes not to participate in RSU 15.
7. Cost savings estimate
8. Governing bodies

Committees

Dr. McIntire suggested the need for the following subcommittees:

Governance/mission/philosophy

Facilities, assets etc.

Curriculum

Finance

Choice

Policies

Transportation

Committee formation

Representatives asked for a 10 minute break to allow various groups to caucus. It was further determined that alternates could participate on committees.

A sign up sheet was circulated for representatives to indicate their choice of committees. It was agreed the three superintendents would meet on Friday, August 31, 2007 to organize the committees.

Another group meeting will be scheduled in mid-September at which time the committees can meet and have Dr. McIntire and the superintendents available for assistance. Members will be notified of the meeting day and time.

The meeting was adjourned by Dr. McIntire at 8:20 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Townsend, recorder

**MINUTES OF THE FIRST ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
FOR THE PROPOSED REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT 15
JULY 24, 2007
CENTER DRIVE SCHOOL, ORRINGTON**

Members of the following town and districts were invited to attend this meeting organized by the Superintendents of Brewer, Orrington, and SAD 63: Brewer, Dedham, Clifton, Eddington, Orrington, Holden, Amherst, Aurora, Great Pond, and Osborn.

The meeting convened at 7:00 PM facilitated by Allan Snell.

Attendance: Representatives and interested citizens in attendance are included in the attached list.

I. WELCOME

Mr. Snell welcomed those present and then explained that the purpose of the meeting to begin implementation mandated by *Public Law 2007, Chapter 240, Part XXXX*. He reported that the Superintendents of the Brewer School Department, SAD 63 and the Orrington School Department met earlier in July and sent invitations to representatives of the towns and districts named in the proposed RSU 15 to attend this initial meeting.

II. GUIDELINES

For the benefit of those present, Mr. Snell distributed copies of the "Guidelines for the Formation and Work of Reorganization Planning Committees" provided by the State Department of Education. He noted that schools that vote against reorganization will face serious financial penalties from the state beginning **FY2010**. The law provides that Units voting "no" in one referendum can develop another plan and hold another referendum, but can avoid penalties only if it approves reorganization by referendum no later than the Nov. 4, 2008 election and is operational by July 1, 2009.

III. TIMELINE

An overhead presentation of the Timeline of key dates in the reorganization law was presented as follows:

July 15, 2007 -- Deadline for completion of regional informational meetings to be held by the Department of Education in each of the Career and Technical Education regions. The Department will present information about the requirements of the reorganization law regarding consolidation and collaboration among school administrative units.

August 31, 2007 -- Deadline for each SAU to file a notice of intent to engage in planning and negotiations with other SAUs for the purpose of developing a reorganization plan to form a Regional School Unit (RSU) or a notice of intent to submit an alternative plan to the Commissioner.

December 1, 2007 – SAUs must submit their reorganization plan or alternative plan to the Commissioner.

December 15, 2007 – Commissioner will approve plans or must return any plan that does not meet the requirements with specific suggestions and written findings providing reasons why the plan did not meet the requirements. Reorganization Plans that have been submitted and approved by the Commissioner by December 15, 2007 will proceed to a municipal referendum.

January 15, 2008 – Deadline for holding a municipal referendum in each of the municipalities making up the proposed RSU. This referendum will be paid for by the Department of Education, and is for SAUs with a reorganization plan completed and approved by December 15, 2007. Referendum ballot indicates the start date proposed in the reorganization plan.

June 10, 2008 – A municipal referendum must be held on June 10, 2008 for any reorganization plan received or revised after December 15, 2007. Referendum ballot indicates the start date proposed in the reorganization plan.

July 1, 2008 – Suggested start date of new regional school units approved at referendum by January 15, 2008. An RSU board of directors becomes operational on the date set by the State Board of Education. [Corrected 6/28/07]

November 4, 2008 – In school units where voters rejected a reorganization plan at referendum, those units have until November 4, 2008 to create a new proposal for reorganization and hold a referendum vote. Units not approving a plan by this date will be subject to the penalties for non-consolidating units.

July 1, 2009 – Latest possible start date of new regional school units. An RSU board of directors becomes operational on the date set by the State Board of Education.

IV. QUESTIONS

Mr. Snell presented the two questions to be addressed in this meeting:

1. Did the towns and districts represented collectively and individually wish to work together to form RSU 15?
2. Should they hire a facilitator from the list suggested by the state to aid the process?

V. DISCUSSION

On question 1, it was noted that groups could connect with other districts than those named if so they wished. Some in attendance raised questions about needing to know values of the districts involved; of concern about the question of choice. It was pointed out that those would be issues involved in further planning and that choice was protected

for those districts that already had choice. Further any plan recommended would be subject to public referendum.

In summary agreement, it was decided that representative towns and boards would go back to their various boards for local approval to meet with this group or others as they chose.

It was further determined, that at least Brewer, Dedham and Orrington, would meet on **August 23, in the Brewer High School Cafeteria, at 7:00 PM.** All interested parties are welcome and should send their various representations to that meeting.

On question 2, Mr. Snell said that the three superintendents who organized this meeting, consulted the list of state approved facilitators and found that Dr. Walter McIntire, Waterville, former head of the UM College of Education and Human Development Research Center, was available and agreed to serve if contacted. Dr. McIntire is well known in education circles and was recommended to the group. It was pointed out that regions hiring someone from the state approved list would have that cost paid by the state. Also, quick and easy access to available state data would be provided. It was emphasized that the facilitator would be an objective voice and simply facilitate the process. With such a large group of towns involved a skilled facilitator would be wise. Brewer, Dedham and Orrington agreed to go ahead with signing Dr. McIntire to facilitate their meeting and ask him to be present August 23.

It was also suggested that this would be a long process as the group tackles all the issues faced. Ultimately, public referendum would make the final decision and towns and districts would be guided by that process.

Meeting adjourned at 8:09 PM.

Next meeting: **August 23, Brewer High School Cafeteria, 7:00 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Townsend, Recorder

Those in attendance for the First Organizational Meeting for the Proposed Regional School
Unit 15 on July 24, 2007 at the Center Drive School in Orrington:

Allen, Roy
Anderson, Theresa
Baker, Chuck
Bryan, Andrew
Casburn, Kyle
Cote, Michelle
Detour, Shawn
Fogg, Peter
Fowler, April
Fowler, Mark
Gibson, Albert
Gideon, Tracey
Goodrich, Linda
Hanscom, Kevin
Harvey, Robert
Hutchinson, Les
Hutchinson, Marion T.
Jarvis, Bethany
Jellison, Alfred
Jellison, Karen
Jones, Eric
Jordan, Ralph
Kelly, Gail
Kelshaw, Kristina
Lacerda, Joe
Lander, Elizabeth
Lawrence, Everett
Lawrence, Kathy
Lawson, Kathy
Lee, Dan
Lorigan, Beth
Luck, Norman
MacKay, Mel
McIntosh, Tyler
Mills, Kevin
Mitchell, Yvonne
O'Riley, Jason

Payne, Clare
Rand, Glendon
Regan, Louise
Roclia, Susan
Sheehan, Mo
Sirois, Pat
Smith, Al
Snell, Allan
Swanton, Joel
Varnum, Don